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MASSERA DELIVERS SPEECH ON ARGENTINE HE[illegible]

PY031933Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1435 GMT 3 Mar 78 PY

[Text of speech delivered on 3 [illegible] Commander Massera during ceremony honoring Admiral Brown in Buenos Aires]

[Text] Argentines: I have come to speak to all of you because Brown belongs to all of you. I want to disregard the limits of strict protocol and talk with you about these old heroes, about the men with founding spirit who preceded us. These men who have been separated from us--from what they should be, our soulmates, our friends--by rhetoric and bronze. Within only a few days, two anniversaries--the birth of San Martin and the death of Brown--have moved this country of ours, and have forced us to reflect for an instant on what we are [illegible] what they hoped we would be.

History is not made by battles--not by losing them nor by winning them. History is made by men who accept or reject battles. These two men accepted their destiny and accepted the risks of their times. That is why they knew how to nurture the newly born nation with a life-sustaining, intelligent, generous and bellicose spirit. Brown's naval campaign ended in victory after 100 hazardous days. That and the surprising crossing of the Andes, by which San Martin freed our brothers, were the decisive actions of those forefathers which turned Latin America's first tumultuous country into what is our nation.

Argentines, I have come to speak softly to each one of you. I have come to be almost silent so that you can hear me amidst the noise of machines and the clatter of moneymaking in today's world. I want words like honor, courage, dignity--so infrequent today--to quicken the pulse of a people who will not let themselves be caught by surprise again. I am nothing more than a military man, but I do know that if victory and money were enough to obtain glory, western civilization would have been more influenced by the Phoenicians than by the Greeks. The search for God, a sense of justice, love of knowledge, appreciation of beauty, and a spirit of greatness, are the only things that last throughout time. Never forget the words of the Argentine banner which many years ago called us to choose the woolen cloth and discard royal robes.

Today is the last time I will commemorate, as commander in chief of our heroes, the death of one of our soulmates. I must ask you for a period of silence so that in the depth of our hearts we can hear the challenge he is making to us. We have two roads before us: ease and decadence, or effort and life. Argentines, beware how you choose.

FIRST BORDER COMMISSION MEETS IN SANTIAGO

PY032053Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 3 Mar 78 PY

[Text of communique released by the Argentine Government House in Buenos Aires on 3 March 1978]

[Text] According to the provisions in the Puerto Montt Act signed by the Chilean and Argentine presidents, joint Chilean-Argentine Commission No 1 met in Santiago, Chile, on 1, 2 and 3 March.

Based on the traditional friendship which links the two countries, the points which each delegation suggested for the agenda were presented during the meetings held at the Argentine Embassy. After a review of the content of each point and a broad exchange of information, an agenda was approved. This agenda includes all of the questions proposed by the two parties.

The review of each specific point will begin during the second meeting of the commission, which will be held in Buenos Aires at a date to be established in the near future.

Apella Comments

PY041542Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1425 GMT 4 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 Mar--Air Force Maj Gen Pablo O. Apella, president of the Argentine mission which returned to this country last night from Santiago, Chile, where joint Chilean-Argentine Commission No 1 had a meeting to discuss aspects of the Beagle Channel border dispute, has said that the second round of talks will be held at the Chilean Embassy in Buenos Aires on a date which will be announced next week.

He added that the members of the Argentine delegation, composed of Gen Edgardo Calvi and Rear Adm Jorge Casas and a group of advisers (one of them a woman), returned with very good impressions regarding the development of the talks and with optimism regarding the reaching of the objectives set with regard to the Beagle Channel border dispute.

General Apella stated that the discussions took place in an atmosphere of great cordiality and strongly stressed that there was agreement that all the subjects proposed by each of the delegations would be dealt with.

He added that those subjects will now be studied more thoroughly and will then be examined at the highest level, after which the results of the studies will be published. The general concluded by saying: "I believe that we will be successful in reaching the goals which have been set.

COMPONENTS FOR REACTOR TO BE SHIPPED TO PERU

PY030050Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2245 GMT 2 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar--Several elements for the RA-0 reactor which is being built by Argentine technicians in Peru under the nuclear cooperation plan signed by the two nations will leave for Peru tomorrow. The announcement, released by the National Atomic Energy Commission, CNEA, adds that the cargo will be shipped in a Hercules C-130 of the Argentine Air Force and that professionals and technicians of the CNEA in charge of the installation and operation of the equipment will travel aboard.

The RA-0, a zero-power reactor for research and training, will serve to train Peruvian technicians who will operate the nuclear research center which our country will build in Peru. The reactor's design and the construction of its components were done totally by Argentina.

This reactor is a substantial step toward the fulfillment of the nuclear plan signed for Argentina and Peru in March of last year by the presidents of the two countries when President Jorge Rafael Videla visited the Peruvian capital.

RELATIVES OF MISSING PUBLISH APPEAL

PY022015Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Mar 78 p 4 PY

[Open letter from relatives of missing and arrested persons to military junta of armed forces government dated February 1978]

[Text] We have now crossed the threshold of 1978, the year in which the entire Argentine nation is getting ready to commemorate the bicentennial of the birth of liberator Jose de San Martin, champion of the independence of the peoples of America, of peace and of justice.

The commemoration takes place in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose Article 3 states: "Every individual has the right to life, to freedom and to personal safety."

We relatives of persons who have disappeared or are under arrest still have the sorrow of being ignorant of the whereabouts and legal status of our loved ones.

It is with deep sorrow that we have seen the hopes raised in us by the Christmas promises made by President Jorge Rafael Videla during the press conference held on board the training ship Libertad in the United States (11 October 1977 issue of LA PRENSA) go up in smoke. We now echo the statement made by Cardinal Juan Carlos Aramburu on 1 January: "Great will be the calm brought to the mind of many Argentines by information about the status of the large number of persons either disappeared or under arrest."

We strongly ask for an end to the disappearances and the lengthy arrests of so many women, men, youths and adults, since all this will greatly help to achieve the peace we all long for.

Imbued with the glorious traditions of San Martin, we repeat the wise words of the liberator: "Life is an everyday interest, since it is the only asset of all mortals. When life ends, everything ends for us. If we are dead, so is the fatherland." (Stated in Cuyo on 5 June 1815).

To let our fatherland follow a prosperous and happy course where peace and justice reign, we insist on our demands.

We demand:

1. The reappearance of the citizens who have disappeared.

2. The freedom of those who have been arrested without reason or trial and the granting to them of the option to leave the country in line with the national constitution.

3. That trials, when there is cause for them, should be held in accordance with the national constitution and the laws.

4. The immediate discontinuation of the actions which are the reason for this request and which are still taking place.

FRONT GROUP SUPPORTS PEREDA FOR PRESIDENT

PY011720Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The press secretariat of the People's Nationalist Union [UNP], which has Gen Juan Pereda Asbun as its presidential candidate, has sent a communique to Radio Fides. The UNP communique states that the Barrientists from Riberalta have sent a telegram in support of Pereda's candidacy.

The UNP also stated that this government-sponsored political front is reorganizing in conformity with the various political groups of which it is composed. The National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] [words indistinct] the most important force in the coalition, but confirmation of its support of Pereda's candidacy is expected at the MNR national convention.

MNR BACKS PEREDA, FAULTS CHILE ON SEA OUTLET

PY030130Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 2 Mar 78 PY

[Text] A labor convention of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] has requested the vice presidency and 60 percent participation in the government if Gen Juan Pereda Asbun wins the 9 July elections. This convention, which was held in a movie theater in La Paz, declared Gen Juan Pereda Asbun the MNR candidate.

On this occasion, the MNR reaffirmed the expulsion of Father Leonidas Sanchez and Guillermo Jauregui from the party.

The MNR convention was held in defiance of the party's traditional leadership, which had been delegated to Sanchez and Jauregui by Victor Paz Estensoro. They, in turn, expelled (?Juan Sanjines Obando), sponsor of the convention.

There are still further reports on this MNR labor congress.

The delegates to the convention asked General Banzer's government to break diplomatic relations with Chile because of the unsuccessful maritime negotiations. The convention harshly criticized the Chilean position of tying Bolivia's outlet to the sea to an exchange of territory equal to the maritime corridor. The delegates suggested establishing a commercial air bridge to avoid paying taxes to Chilean ports.

Among other recommendations is one that the government establish social benefits for independent workers such as retail businessmen and house servants as soon as possible.

Pereda Addresses Convention

PY021958Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Mar 78 PY

[Text] "On the centennial of our geographic isolation we Bolivians will recover our coastal area through (?determinations)." This was said last night by the Nationalist candidate Juan Pereda Asbun when he closed the opening ceremony of the national convention of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] political committee which was held in the Colonial Cinema in this city.

This is a highly important ceremony, because it is attended by the workers who seek the resurgence of the country through their daily efforts and sacrifices and it is of great significance that the workers feel like true revolutionaries. For this reason, I am pleased to be with you and proud to speak with those who represent the economic and social backbone of Bolivia, General Pereda added. He continued: Thousands of workers such as you are making constructive contributions to national development throughout the country. I would like to name as presidential candidate the worker who best serves the majority sectors of the nation.

"We Bolivians do not need foreign ideologies to show us how to solve our problems. We will know ourselves what to do in all situation, Pereda said." We are revolutionaries because we basically wish to build a new Bolivia with more social justice within the old structures. Our origins stem from the people and we intend to reach power on the shoulders of the national majority sectors of peasants and workers, who are the Bolivian people, he added.

Pereda said that we are seeking national unity because we believe that the country cannot continue losing time in sterile struggles. We believe that the time has come for all nationalists of the country to promote our development to show all the world that we Bolivians can return to the sea by means of working together.

General Pereda added: The consolidation of the national [word indistinct] has been initiated by General Banzer and will result in a state ruled by justice. The historic MNR sector cannot be absent from that event [words indistinct].

The nationalist candidate congratulated the party leadership in obtaining a more united, stronger and greater MNR. He paid homage to all the workers of the country, since the new Bolivia is being built through their daily efforts and work.

Pereda said: In this democratic process my candidacy has led to a revolutionary and popular nationalist process.

Juan Pereda, nationalist presidential candidate, who was especially invited to the MNR national labor convention, concluded by stating: All Bolivians, united in a true nationalism, will build a strong and proud country.

The convention is attended by nearly 800 delegates, representing 76 labor and social organizations. The meeting will take 2 days.

SILES ZUAZO RETURNS AFTER 2-and-1/2-YEAR EXILE

PY041721Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 4 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Former President Hernan Siles Zuazo returned to the country shortly before 0600 this morning after 2 and 1/2 years of exile in Venezuela. Siles Zuazo was received at El Alto International Airport by various leaders of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] and other political sectors.

He excused himself from making statements to the press, only saying that he had come to seek the unity of all Bolivians. He declined to state anything regarding his political position, but announced that he would call a press conference within the next few hours.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CRITICIZE STATUS QUO

PY250150Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Feb 78 p 15 PY

[Paid advertisement: "The Christian Democratic Party, an Alternative for National Center-Left Opposition"]

[Excerpts] "The present Bolivian reality is a picture of dependency and underdevelopment, accompanied by an unjust social stratification and dehumanizing power relations, the alienation from the nation of large middle-class, labor and peasant sectors and the struggle or confrontation among sectors which is caused by social injustice and by interests opposed to unity among Bolivians, making for a stronger domination of the country and the weakest classes.

To this should be added the frustration of our people who have found that the 1952 revolution has become stunted, since it was not understood in time that it should lead to a total structural change and that it should not be used for the service of a privileged bureaucratic minority.

The country is disillusioned over the incompetence and immorality of the present government team which has put the nation's organs of power, economy and finance at the service of a small group which dominates the government, in order to protect and serve sectorial interest, thus seriously harming the interests of the nation and the majority sectors, leading to an indebtedness unprecedented in our history, a debt whose investment and purpose are largely unknown to the citizens. We have the example that one of those large debts has not even been enough to finish the La Paz motorway, one of the most expensive in the world and one of the shadiest deals.

The great deceit and mockery committed against the nation in the maritime negotiations almost led to a new dismemberment of national territory, which was only prevented thanks to the patriotic reaction of the people.

The systematic denial of human rights, seen in the contempt for the values which are the basis of our culture, has led to the expulsion, detention and massacre of hundreds of Bolivians, the cancelling of political, social and labor union rights and the organization of state institutions along totalitarian lines.

These and other events led Christian Democracy in 1973 to form a political alliance with the Authentic Revolutionary Party [PRA] which was joined by the national Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] in 1974 in order to offer the country an alternative based on leftist, democratic and popular nationalism, an alternative with a political conduct which would be representative of the national center-left position of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

The rightwing failure which, during the last few years of government, has not achieved a new model society and which has led the country to even greater disasters, forces parties to take a center-left stand in order to offer the people a real and feasible alternative for change. A situation such as Bolivia's offers little or no reason to conserve its stratified structures under conditions which do not respond to the demands of a society wanting to free itself of misery and human denial.

Another obstacle to a real possibility for change is the obvious infantilism of the alienated left which has contributed to the present state of affairs with its dogmatic and anachronistic position.

We completely identify with the regime's opposition not because of sectorial circumstances or interests, but because of popular ideological thought and conduct which is against all dictatorship. We oppose the present regime and an official candidacy which includes a series of manipulations of the interests of the nation and the social interests of field, mining and urban workers. We also oppose it because of our political ethics which are against the immorality of an official oligarchy alienating our democratic tendencies by imposing an official candidate, while trying to force the support of the armed forces and to involve them in a process without social basis or political alternative. The inherent instability which is part of the official formula will result in constant intervention by the military institution to protect the regime, and in its subsequent decrease in popularity.

With the intention of avoiding perpetuation of the regime which seeks to remain in power by changing only a few persons, the PDC calls upon the people and the nation's center-left parties to redouble their efforts and unite our political activities, in order to form a great democratic front in opposition to officialism, to form a front capable of competing for power, and offering our nation an electoral victory which would constitute the beginning of a real social and national liberation. La Paz, 22 February 1978; [signed] Benjamin Miguel Harb, president, for the National Committee of the Bolivian Christian Democratic Party

MINISTER CALLS FOR LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PARTIES

PY041728Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 4 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo has said that the promulgation of a law for political parties is necessary to regulate their activities. He added that in this country there should be a total of three political parties, not more than 30, as is now the case.

JUAN LECHIN STRESSES NEED FOR UNION REORGANIZATION

PY020042Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Central, Juan Lechin, reiterated today that union reorganization is a first step in any political action.

Lechin indicated that a great majority of the state-owned mining unions have been reorganized through democratic elections, although he charged that coordinators have interfered in elections in several unions.

He emphasized the union maturity of the mineworkers and affirmed that almost all reorganized unions have leaders who oppose the current regime.

GEISEL LEAVES FOR VISIT TO FRG

PA050034Y Paris AFP in English 0015 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Brasilia, March 4 (AFP)--The Brazilian President, General Ernesto Geisel, left here tonight aboard the presidential plane for a five-day visit to West Germany.

Arrival in FRG

For reportage on the 5-day visit to the FRG by Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel, see the 6 March Federal Republic of Germany section of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FRG VISIT COMMUNIQUE TO DOWNPLAY NUCLEAR PACT

PY022159Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Mar 78 p 5 PY

[By special correspondent Merval Pereira, Jr]

[Excerpts] Bonn--Ambassador Jorge de Carvalho Silva yesterday disclosed that the tendency of the two governments is not to include open reaffirmation of the nuclear agreement signed by Brazil and the FRG in 1974 in the joint communique to be issued on the 10th. The intent to continue completely fulfilling the terms of the agreement, as well as the signing of some acts which form part of the agreement, will certainly be mentioned in the text of the communique, although in general terms. However, nothing that could represent a hostile attitude toward the U.S. government will be included in the document which is fundamental to the appraisals of the results of the trip to be made by President Geisel to the FRG from 5-10 March.

According to the ambassador, there are two principal reasons for that tendency at the moment: it is really not necessary to publicly reaffirm the agreement's validity, as it is obvious that it is being observed despite all external pressures. In addition the ambassador made it very clear that neither of the two governments is interested in showing a hostile attitude toward the U.S. government precisely when President Jimmy Carter has announced a visit to Brazil at the end of March and an official visit to the FRG is foreseen for June. "Brazil's and the FRG's stand is sufficiently well known and clear not to need a reaffirmation every day," emphasized the Brazilian ambassador in Bonn.

Nonetheless, shortly after the talks President Geisel will hold with German President Walter Scheel and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, the terms of the joint communique will be clearly defined with respect to the nuclear agreement.

Details of Thorium Reactor Deal

PY010209Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 28 Feb 78 p 23 PY

[By Tereshinh Costa]

[Text] Bonn--Hans-Hilger Haunschild, state secretary in the Research and Technology Ministry, reported yesterday that during President Geisel's visit to the Julich Energy Research Center next week, Brazil and the FRG will sign an agreement on developing technology for high-temperature reactors which, in addition to producing energy, can produce heat for industrial use and can use thorium as fuel.

Haunschild noted that the objective of the agreement "is to give Brazil a chance to decide whether the utilization of this type of reactor will be useful or not." He added that the next step after the signing of the agreement will be the preparation of a research project in Brazil.

High-temperature reactors use thorium as fuel and Brazil has large deposits of this material. The FRG is now building a 300-mw high-teperature commercial reactor in the city of Schmehausen. Haunschild noted, however, that this reactor will not need Brazilian thorium since it will need only a small quantity which can be obtained within the FRG. He added that in the future "the production of Brazilian thorium for high-temperature reactors will be the subject of new treaties between Brazil and the FRG."

He said that it is not possible to know how much Brazil will have to pay for the "know-how" on high-temperature reactors. He added that if the Brazilian Government decides to adopt this technology, another agreement will be concluded between Brazil and the FRG industry.

Three more agreements will be signed during President Geisel's visit to the FRG: one on production of niobium, another on welding techniques and a third one on the use of organic material [Biomassa] as fuel (the extraction of fuel, including alcohol, from plants). These agreements will be signed during the meeting Mines and Energy Minister Shegeaki Ueki will hold next Monday with Volker Hauff, the FRG research and technology minister.

At that time, the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN] will exchange letters with the FRG Interior Ministry, which is responsible for the safety of nuclear installations. The FRG will brief the CNEN on the advances made in the research of new safety measures. This information will involve technical rules for the construction of nuclear plants and their equipment and the supervision of the construction and safety of reactors.

Regarding the "jet-nozzle" uranium enrichment process which Brazil and the FRG are jointly developing at the Karlsruhe Research Center, Haunschild said that two full-sized models of units for separation [protofipos de unidades de separacao no tamanho real] are already functioning and that the plans for building a uranium enrichment plant in Brazil are ready. The construction of this plant, in Resende, will start this year.

GEISEL MESSAGE MARKS REOPENING OF CONGRESS

PY020240Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the opening of this year's legislative period, President Geisel today sent a message to the National Congress outlining his government's achievements in 1977, primarily in the social and economic sectors.

The message states: The great powers continue to engage in an arms race in every sector, even in outer space. This race, which is marked by unrestrained utilization of nuclear energy for military purposes, is both a major cause of international in security and a threat to mankind.

It also refers to the delayed effects of the world economic crisis which in differing degrees affected several countries, especially those regarded as developing countries which do not produce petroleum.

It notes the reappearance of protectionist policies which jeopardize a country's capacity to increase its income through exports, primarily those of manufactured products. It adds that while these policies encourage inefficiency, because they reduce the chances of competition in the world market, Brazil is still contributing to creating new conditions and coexistence among all states.

Brazil advocates peaceful and negotiated solutions of international conflicts, the president states, but it does not accept or recognize any capricious desire of interference, expansionism or hegemonic ambitions, which are not in keeping with national existence. Brazil does not believe--and it expects others to share this view--that it has to give up what is legitimately Brazilian in favor of other countries. President Geisel notes that in conducting the country's bilateral relations, Brazilian diplomacy has tried to expand gradually and systematically areas of agreement and common interest and to reduce the impact of inevitable differences.

The message adds: As a peaceful country, Brazil attaches top priority to efforts to maintain peace and security for all states. It emphasizes the pressing need to end the arms race in which the great powers are engaged and it is actively participating in international efforts toward disarmament, especially in the nuclear sector.

The message also outlines Brazilian relations with each Latin American country, with those of Africa, Western Europe and other continents, and regards 1977 as a particularly busy year marked by the visit of statesmen who promoted new and significant expressions of friendship and the signing of important international documents on economic and technical cooperation.

The message also notes the normal implementation of the Brazilian nuclear program in coordination with the agreement with the FRG on cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and complementary instruments. In this manner, Brazil will have guaranteed for itself the transfer of technology developed in each stage of the fuel cycle for light water reactors and enriched uranium.

Brazil considers, the message adds, that nuclear technology can no longer be monopolized and, consequently, its international dissemination is a trend which cannot be stopped or set back through a prohibition. Furthermore, the Brazilian Government believes that every country is entitled to have access to the technology for the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under adequate--but never discriminatory--safeguards.

In his message, President Geisel states that the April 1977 reforms brought about a remarkable institutional advancement. The reforms were made and are now being implemented. He says that these reforms will be solidly based on consensus and will be inspired in generous feelings, so as not to be distorted by egoists and opportunists or through political fanaticism. He adds that the reforms should not be jeopardized by subversives, who are disguised behind ostensible ultraliberal, democratic purposes. He asks for the cooperation of both official and opposition legislators in implementing these reforms.

The message also defended the extension of the presidential term to 6 years, noting that this will correct the difficulties stemming from an executive branch which is renewed every 5 years and a legislative branch which is renewed every 4 years.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON LETELIER INVESTIGATION

Petition Termed Legal Matter

PY031801Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The U.S. court petition related to the Letelier case is exclusively a legal affair and we are sure that the court will act in the traditionally correct manner, said the Minister Secretary of Government Rene Vidal Merino in response to questions about the status of the proceedings related to the above-mentioned case.

The U.S. court is demanding the questioning of two Chilean citizens who are suspected of being involved in the attack in which Letelier was killed. Gen Vidal Merino indicated that due to its nature the matter is in the hands of the Supreme Court. He added that the Foreign Ministry merely acted as liaison in this particular case, in line with the agreements in effect between Chilean and U.S. courts.

He also indicated that the government's silence in this affair is because it is a judicial and not a government matter, and added that it us up to the court to provide whatever information it deems appropriate.

QUE PASA Backs Investigation

PY020144Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0032 GMT 2 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 1 Mar--A local weekly said today that the investigation ordered by the Chilean Government to clarify the alleged participation of two Chileans in the death in the United States in 1976 of former socialist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier is justified.

The magazine QUE PASA stated the hope that the investigations will provide proof, leaving not even a shadow of doubt."

The weekly referred to the request submitted to the Chilean Supreme Court by a court of the United States requesting the interrogation of two alleged members of the military, Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara, who were possibly involved in the crime.

QUE PASA stated: "Obviously it should be emphasized that the occurrence of a cold-blooded political assassination, as the Orlando Letelier case seems to be, for whatever reasons or ideology of the executor or executors, is a very serious matter."

QUE PASA also indicated: "Unofficially, the fact that President Carter himself was concerned with the investigation and that Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher himself called on Ambassador Cauas to personally deliver the request, was considered extremely important."

The weekly concluded by recalling President Augusto Pinochet's remarks when he visited the United States last September. Referring to Letelier's tragic death, General Pinochet said: "I can swear that no one in the Chilean Government ever planned such a thing. He (Letelier) was arrested in Chile, and I am the one who ordered his release and authorization to freely leave the country."

Court Receives Report

PY041754Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1538 GMT 4 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 4 Mar--Supreme Court Attorney Gustavo Chamorro has submitted his report to the presidency of that court regarding the request made by U.S. authorities for an investigation of two Chilean citizens allegedly involved in the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

The Santiago newspaper EL MERCURIO said in its main editorial today that "everything which is done by the authorities to clarify the facts and cooperate in the investigation, as far as it is possible and legally justified, will result in increased prestige for the government and the armed forces." EL MERCURIO added: "The legal case we are referring to should be approached realistically; cooperation toward the success of the investigation calls for reserve and prudence, which would explain the silence of the officials after the first reactions. There is, however, an aspect which is both diplomatic and administrative--that of the official passports--which deserves to be clarified."

GOVERNMENT LIFTS SANCTION AGAINST PDC LEADERS

PA052011Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1419 GMT 5 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 5 Mar (AFP)--Twelve leaders of the dissolved Chilean Christian Democratic Party [PDC] who had been confined to the country's north returned last night to this capital, following the lifting of the sanctions by the military government.

The group is composed of former Senate President Tomas Reyes; former Deputy Andres Aylwin; Guillermo Yungue, former president of the Federation of High School Students; and former labor leaders Juan Manuel Sepulveda, Samuel Astorga, Luis Balbontin, Belisario Velasco, Hernan Mery, Elias Sanchez, Enrique Hernandez, Juan Reyes and Georgina Aceituno. The leaders were confined to the city of Arica, 2,051 km north of Santiago, on 14 January, after the government accused them of breaking the suspension of political activities that has been in effect in the country since October 1973. However, the government lifted the measure on Thursday, granting the group unconditional freedom.

Upon their return to the capital, those released agreed that the sanction against them would be lifted and that their confinement was all the more harsh at first because they were separated from their families and friends. Former Deputy Andres Aylwin said that "the experience helped me to reinforce my ideas. I knew that I would return."

Leaders Warned

PY041310Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 4 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--President Augusto Pinochet warned the group of Christian Democrats who had been banned to the northern area of the country that if they violate the political recess again, they would be sent to Pisagua. The president said he had suspended the measure taken against them because they had probably had enough time to mediate. However, he warned that they would have to observe regulations from now on.

PRESIDENT LOPEZ BLAMES DRUGS, COFFEE PRICES FOR CORRUPTION

PA051420Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0345 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Villavicencio, Colombia, 4 Mar (EFE)--Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen said today that the corruption in his government "had been caused by U.S. drug consumers and by fluctuations in coffee prices."

Speaking at the dedication of a rice processing plant, the chief of state said that he has had to govern the country during its most difficult period in the past 45 years. The president also announced that $30 million will be invested in the exploitation of uranium under conditions favorable to Colombia, although many foreign firms have chosen to withdraw their offers.

President Lopez said that thanks to the programs carried out by the present government, Colombia will have 100 years of prosperity instead of 100 years of neglect in many regions. Referring to the recent elections, the president said that his government was not at stake in Sunday's elections and that it will not be at stake in the future either. The government, he said, "is only an arbiter, the fulcrum of a scale, and it will continue being that."

The president noted that he was not the winner in the elections. "I clearly stated that I was going to be an observer," he said. The Colombian president also stated: "I did not accept any offer to be a plebiscite president," referring to a misunderstanding in this regard.

BELISARIO BETANCUR ISSUES ELECTORAL MESSAGE TO NATION

PA 040252Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 Feb 78 pp 6, 16 PA

[Text of message read by Belisario Betancur, Conservative Party presidential candidate, during news conference on 27 February 1978--place not given]

[Text] Today I fulfill the promise I made to my fellow citizens that on 27 February, the great battle of our national movement in defense of the dignity of Colombia and in search of a better life for Colombians would begin.

As simple as that goal seems, it is filled with many significant aspects, the most important being that it contains the request of a citizen of good will that he be granted confidence by a country which has given its confidence for many years and has only received neglect and frustration in return. That is the first truth that must be expressed by someone who wants his fellow citizens to place their last hope in him.

That battle which Colombians must wage for the good of their discouraged fatherland and their own good has to be successful. In that battle the only weapons should be good faith, recognition of the moral values upon which the republic was founded and which are today the target of mockery by some, determination so that those values will regain their place of honor and so that we who have not resigned ourselves to seeing them buried can stand guard around them, and our repudiation of the dominance of those who are turning the government into a system for the distribution of wages, persecution of dignity, awarding of prizes for questionable audacity and disdain for public morals.

One can be proud of undertaking this noble campaign with those slogans. Social development and the improvement of the poor quality of our national life can only take place if we are all fully aware of what has just occurred in our country.

Yesterday, as a result of a dynamism that emerged from the deepest aspect of the national being, we in Colombia voted not for parties in the traditional manner but for authentic values, for morals. We voted for the respect that each citizen owes to himself and to his fellow citizens. That was what was ultimately involved.

But we must be honest and recognize the fact that many Colombians either ignored the election or viewed it with disbelief, which resulted in a huge number of abstentions that might prove costly to the republic. We knew beforehand that millions of voters did not want to vote because they despised the vices of the congress, assemblies and councils. It was precisely because I was aware of that regrettable image of our legislative bodies that I announced that today and only today, once the Liberals had solved their problems, would I actively begin my campaign.

Upon beginning the campaign, I deeply regret that ignorance of that indifference has resulted in the sacrifice of Dr Carlos Lleras Restrepo, to whom our fatherland owes much and of whom it can still ask even more. He arduously fought the war and nobly established peace. Apparently the Liberals want experienced fighter Dr Julio Cesar Turbay to carry their historic banner. Before him and the other candidates, I raise our many-colored banner and invite them to wage a battle that will be remembered for its clean language, high goals and respect.

The next phase of our history will be sad or happy according to what we want. Because of this, we cannot reduce the campaign to a useless struggle among Liberals, Conservatives, National Popular Alliance (ANAPO) members and other groups.

Aware of that fact and free from any sectarianism, I systematically declared myself willing to accept only a presidential candidacy that would awaken the confidence of all my fellow citizens who are tired of seeing the country grow weak amid the struggle among the parties. Only when I was sure that my party had renounced the status of being a sole alternative and that a powerful independent force inside or outside the parties believed in my proposals and promised to support them did I take the step of submitting my name for the approval of Colombians who want a truly democratic government free from an uncontrolled hunger for power, a government that does not operate behind the back of the public but consults with and respects public opinion, a government that gives authentic participation to the various sectors of the community, especially those who have traditionally lacked the opportunity to be heard.

If I reach the presidency of the republic, I promise that I will unwaveringly respect Constitutional Article 120 and that, therefore, I will not have a party government, a sectarian government or a hegemonic government, but an authentic national government. I also promise that above any other consideration, I will remain vigilant until the end of my term so that there will be no attempt to distort the popular will under any pretext and so that I will be able to have the great honor of turning over my office to whomever the Colombian people have freely chosen. I make these promises with patriotic enthusiasm, because if Colombians choose me to rule with them beginning on 7 August, it will mean the start of a new era in which party labels will be a minor requirement in the face of the predominance of values such as antisectarianism, political coexistence, honesty and efficient fulfillment of the obligations of public administration before the citizens who are its real owners, because they give life to it with their taxes, work and respect for the law.

Upon making these promises, I am only reiterating the solemn oath I made before the Simon Bolivar statue in Bogota on 27 February 1970. [paragraph continues]

I had as witnesses the distinguished Liberal chiefs Alvaro Uribe Rueda, Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha and Enrique Pardo Parra, members of the Liberal [as published] convention which proclaimed my presidential candidacy at that time and which had other eminent leaders such as Francisco Eladio Ramirez, Jorge Uribe Marquez, Daniel Arango and Enrique Vargas Ramirez. Today, as on that date, I state that I will respect the political rights of all Colombians, that I will work unceasingly for the well-being of my fellow citizens and that in 1982 I will turn over power "to whoever legitimately wins free and honest elections."

That is the past and current history of my presidential candidacy.

If I become president, I will struggle wholeheartedly for the restoration of security and public morals. It will be possible for society to flourish and development only by restoring those basic principles. Therefore, I will earmark the budget and the administrations work and dynamism mainly toward fighting insecurity and the scourge of immorality.

The struggle that many waged yesterday under those banners will not remain without a conclusion. We will continue it; and I swear I will be first in the struggle against the threat of kidnapings and kidnapers, against the horrible rule of the mafias which with their abundance of money are trying to infiltrate the organizations of our society. Crime, dishonesty and the lack of social punishment cannot become the doorway to a new but obscure avalanche in this country. And the administration must set the example by firmly and tirelessly searching out the quiet or bold pioneers of this new invasion. I commit myself to that: There will be authority without authoritarianism; there will be freedom without license.

I have already heard the voice of the abstentionists who claim that they do not vote because they do not believe in the administration, let alone in the congress. There are profound reasons for this position, one of them being the feeling of abandonment which those Colombians have and their expressed rejection of anything related to POLITICS. They are right, and this may not be the best time to change their minds, since the political parties have given unbelievable signs of internal cannibalism, which can be added to the enormous frustration caused by this administration.

In view of this situation, we will have to carry out many positive works. We will have to change many practices so that abstentionism, which began and increased due to those valid reasons, will yield and allow the establishment of a genuine democracy. This is the only way to bring those who today do not want to know anything about politicis and the elections to think that it is worthwhile to influence through their vote the institutions we possess, reforming some, eliminating others, creating those required by the new nation and placing the destiny of the institutions in the clean hands of the millions of disillusioned citizens, the millions of young people who did not want to vote yesterday, the millions of employees and workers who had announced that they would abstain from voting yesterday.

Thus, the congress, the assemblies and city halls will have to modernize themselves and become more moral in order to become effective tools that can really work in conjunction with the public. The country expects the officials who were elected yesterday to understand this lesson if they want to save the representative institutions. Any cooperation they ask of the executive branch shall be given to them because that is what national advancement--which is everybody's job--calls for. And of course that cooperation will begin with the search for a new understanding and cooperation which is a permanent symbol of relations among the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

It just so happens that every government action intended to solve common needs also affects the people, the municipalities, the various national areas and above all, the citizens themselves. Thus, thinking along these lines, I have said that Colombia is being governed behind the backs of the people. The administration is arrogant at all levels: It behaves like an occupation government that is doing the Colombian people the favor of ruling. It does not offer the solutions it should offer but rather imposes solutions with all its might. And since our idea of what the public feels is hazy and distorted, there is a gap between the authorities and the governed. Along these lines, we have come to have a fighting administration, an administration which does not safeguard rights but rather hampers even the citizens' performance of their duties.

These are not empty, populist remarks. Proof of this is the existing scandal that even to pay taxes, one has to wait for hours or resort to the dark practice of payoffs.

Our movement will change that.

For instance, I will fulfill my promise to declare a state of educational emergency in the country in order to wipe out illiteracy and involve the university in the major national problems.

For instance, I will create a complete social security system that will provide food and health care to the people. I will open childcare centers and nurseries. I will promote legislation that recognizes the equality of women and that contains the means to implement that recognition effectively.

For instance, I will not levy any new taxes, and I will use the tax policy as a genuine tool for economic and social development.

For instance, I will provide housing with no down payment for the middle class and the poor.

I will use "contract for development" so that the big economic groups and the government will not work in disarray and will not be in constant struggle. National production will grow and new jobs will be created through a stimulating tax credit certificate, thus providing means for the struggle against the high cost of living and the promotion of our exports.

For instance, I will fulfill my promise that public service costs will be redistributed. They will be lower for the lower classes, and I will not authorize any adjustment that has not been genuinely discussed with the representatives of the community.

We will create the bank of public services to regulate municipal life.

These are specific goals, not mere empty promises. We can and will carry them out.

I want to conclude this anguished call to my fellow citizens by insisting that we are faced, above all, with a moral emergency.

The triumphant "political pornography" that a big liberal newspaper talks about today can be seen not only in petty electoral ploys such as the buying of votes, but it can also be seen in the continuation of government and party procedures that are thwarting the citizens' participation in the waking of decisions concerning their future. This participation will be restored to the people at all costs.

Committed to this great national goal, which is the only solid basis for a worthy and secure future for the Colombian people, I appear before my fellow citizens today so that they may decide once and for all whether the Republic of Colombia can or cannot be the respectable nation which our forefathers wanted to create and which is facing the beginning of the end.

Humbly, but steadfastly, I offer myself to lead this great Colombian endeavor.

LIBERAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PA031201Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 2 Mar 78 PA

[Special report by News Director Faustino Garcia]

[Text] During a news conference held with foreign news agency, radio and television correspondents today, official Liberal Party candidate Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala primarily discussed the urgent need to create a jurisdictional organization of the Andean group, drugs and the continental shelf issue with Venezuela.

During the conference, Turbay called for joint, vigorous activities between Colombia and the United States to check the rising rate of drug trafficking between the two countries. Turbay Ayala said that the rising drug trade is a [word indistinct] problem for Colombia. It is better to have a poor economic situation but maintain the republic's moral stature, he added.

Concerning the differences surrounding the delimitation of marine and submarine areas between Colombia and Venezuela, he said it is necessary to find a peaceful solution midway between the positions of the two governments. He said that until oil is removed from the issue, it will be impossible to reach a realistic position of agreement between the two countries.

He noted the urgent need to create a jurisdictional organization within the Andean group to resolve its differences, because integration is a difficult process. Turbay remarked that if he wins the election next June, he will have diplomatic relations with all nations of the world, including the PRC.

On a strictly economic plane, he advocated the diversification of exports, market expansion and the defense of basic prices.

It was learned today that Julia Cesar Turbay Ayala's presidential campaign [as heard] issued a call to all Liberal Party groups to cooperate fully in the organization of the presidential campaign that will end on 4 June, election day.

FUP CANDIDATE REJECTS POSSIBILITY OF COALITION

PA050128Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Jaime Piedraita Cardona, presidential candidateof the Single Popular Front [Frente Unico Popular--FUP], today denied any possibility of forming coalitions with the other leftist sectors by categorically announcing that his desireto become president remains unchanged. In an attack against the National Opposition Union [UNO]-National Popular Alliance [ANAPO] -Movement of the Liberal Left [MIL] coalition, he noted that the Communist Party or UNO plans of intrigue and division did not achieve the poisonous results expected by its instigators. The unification policy we support remains just. We will not become weak in our determination to organize a broad anti-imperialist front based on a national and democratic program with no international affiliations.

VARIOUS SECTORS REJECT INCREASE IN FUEL PRICES

PA042230Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Quito--Several sectors have expressed opposition to statements made by Finance Minister Santiago Sevilla favoring an increase in fuel prices in the country. [words indistinct] expressed opposition on the grounds that the increase is not justified and that the arguments have no solid basis. Others reflected on possible consequences of an increase. The Federation of Progessional Drivers voiced a protest a few days ago because of (?what is considers to be) the intention to raise the price of fuel, noting that this would have a negative impact on transportation and would lead to repercussions in other areas.

Dr Manuel Garcia Jaen, new president of the Chamber of Industrialists, said among other things that the price of gasoline and other fuels must be (?based) on a study of the real costs of oil exploitation at the level of [word indistinct], in no case using international prices as a reference. The National Front for Nationalization of Oil invited Minister Sevilla to participate in a public debate on the advisability of raising fuel prices [words indistinct] on the basis of OPEC prices (?or on the) basis of (?crude) prices [words indistinct].

PLANS TO SUSPEND AGRARIAN REFORM DENIED

PA041942Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 3 Mar (EFE)--Agriculture Minister Gen Oliveiro Vasconez has said that the Ecuadorean Government believes that one of its fundamental tasks is the promotion and improvement of the agrarian reform process rather than suspension of it. The minister's statement was made following the resignation of Dr Manuel Franco, director of the Ecuadorean Institute for Agrarian Reform and Colonization (IERAC). General Vasconez said that "at no time have there been plans to suspend the agrarian reform process or to affect the IERAC or its officials." "Instead," he added, "we wish to make changes in defense of that process. The actions undertaken are solely aimed at promoting and improving the Ecuadorean agrarian reform."

The agriculture minister also indicated that the Agrarian Coordination Council is analyzing the evaluation report of that process which was drafted by a technical group especially appointed for that task. The report includes studies on specific cases incorporated into the agrarian reform process and their development from 1964 to 1976. Besides showing a general overview of the achievements of the IERAC, the report reviews the current situation of land holding and distribution. The analysis is based on a study on the socio-economic changes resulting from the agrarian reform process. Dr Franco, IERAC director until 2 days ago, submitted his irrevocable resignation as a result of the report evaluating the agrarian reform. According to Franco, the report was "poorly oriented from the beginning."

COOPERATION DOCUMENTS SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

AU031753Y Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1730 GMT 3 Mar 78 AU

[Text] The first session of the Romanian-Ecuadorean intergovernment commission took place in Quito. On this occasion, the sides examined opportunities to increase trade exchange and to expand economic cooperation between the two countries. During the session, the sides signed the 1978-82 protocol on goods exchange, as well as a payments agreement that will facilitate bilateral economic exchange.

PERU, ZAMBIA, ZAIRE AGREE TO REDUCE COPPER PRODUCTION

PA031749Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0210 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[By Miguel Paredes]

[Text] Lima, 3 Mar (LATIN)--Peru, Zambia and Zaire have jointly signed an agreement to reduce their copper production by 15 percent to obtain a better price, reliable sources confirmed here tonight. The sources added that, according to the agreement, Peru will use 85 percent of its existing capacity and will study other ways of obtaining a revaluation of the prices of this metal.

The same sources note that the measure agreed upon by the three countries will be studied at the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC) scheduled to meet next June. CIPEC is made up of Chile, Peru, Zambia, Zaire, Austria, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

The same sources noted that the agreement to reduce production will be revised if deemed advisable "in the light of the results obtained." According to the sources, the low price of copper "is an attack on the income of its producers, particularly developing countries who depend chiefly on metal exports."

The agreement signed by Peru, Zaire, and Zambia yesterday caused the price to climb to 10 pounds sterling per ton in London yesterday.

Peru's copper production last year exceeded 300,000 tons compared with 200,000 in 1976. Metal exports constitute the country's economic backbone and produce 51 percent of the income.

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES PLANS TO REORGANIZE ECONOMY

PA031757Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 27 Feb 78 pp 3, 15 PA

[Speech to the nation by Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez over radio and television network on 26 February, 1978]

[Text] Dear Peruvian brothers, this is not a message. This is not a conference. This is a conversation with you. This is a conversation with the Peruvian people. This is a conversation with the homes of Peru.

You know full well that it is very difficult for a ruler to be in direct contact with his people. You also know that here at the palace we continually receive various groups and hold talks with businessmen, workers and political parties. But today I felt the need to communicate with all of you. That is why this conversation is informal. That is why I am wearing this suit.

This conversation was not prepared much in advance. A few minutes ago, I sat down to think and made some notes that will serve as guidelines for this conversation. All this is simple and has not been prepared in advance.

In the first place, I wish to reiterate to all of you one of the great objectives we have outlined for Peru which, we believe, is one of the most important of all objectives. That objective is national unity. It is impossible to advance in an underdeveloped country amid disunity. All of us must unite. This does not mean that we expect all Peruvians to be oriented along the same political thinking or to share the same political ideas. That would be absurd. But we do believe that despite the differences that might exist in our political thinkings and in what each of us thinks about Peru, there has to be a point of convergence, there must be a criterion of national unity.

All of us have to work to achieve our national objectives. Our national objectives are mainly aimed at the welfare of our people. This, as you all can understand, cannot be achieved in a short time. We have to struggle and work a lot to achieve the development and happiness of our people.

We have brought about a great political opening and it is the purpose of the armed forces and the armed forces' revolutionary government that this political opening continue. We have included very concrete objectives in our government plan. The first step, which we are already taking, is the formation of an assembly that must reflect the will and thinking of all Peruvians in order to build the new Peru we all want and yearn for. This is our first objective.

But this consistuent assembly also means--and this is very important to the country's life--that the political and sociopolitical groups must begin working realistically and positively on behalf of Peru. We have been under military rule for several years and our country has not had a true political practice. So the constituent assembly has a dual role: an essential and basic role which is that of reflecting the Peruvian people's will in a new political charter in order to formulate their future, and the rule of making political and socio-political groups organize and think about Peru in order to facilitate the political transition that our government plan has established for 1980.

We said and discussed some of these things at our last news conference. That news conference produced a number of interpretations. You must realize that at such an informal and fast-moving news conference as the one we held late last year it was difficult to reaffirm certain ideas while answering questions. But now I would like to clear up some points. Mainly, I would like to refer to an aspect included in our government plan, that of the transfer of power in 1980. That is the fundamental idea, but we must consider the fact that this is a de facto government, a de facto government that seized power under certain specific circumstances in the history of our fatherland. This is not a government elected by the people. As a result of this, power has not been given to us; the people did not bestow power on this government. Therefore, we cannot transfer that which we did not receive. But I sincerely believe that the constituent assembly and the political transfer of 1980 will achieve that purpose. That is to say, the people will choose their own government. The people will recover as sovereign the power that belongs to them. This is the political objective we have outlined and for which we are working. This is the political objective for which we are requesting the cooperation of all the country's political and labor organizations.

We have repeatedly said we do not believe ourselves to be perfect in this military regime. Like any human, we have made mistakes and we have criticized the process ourselves. It is precisely from that self-criticism that the "Tupac Amaru" government plan was born which fixes the bearings from which to lead the nation to the 1980 political transition. We continue this self-criticism with all honesty.

We want you to know that in the last few days we have been holding important working sessions to analyze in detail the economic process of Peru since 1970. There we have found important elements for self-criticism. As result of this, the government will soon announce to the nation a program of economic reorganization, which is not ambitious since it is linked to the time set for our administration to end--that is, 1980. It is, however, a sincere program, as we have based it on self-criticism. We have seen the omissions, lapses and the structural errors of our economic policy, and the external factors--that you all know--which are important and which have affected our economy.

We will soon submit this program to the nation. This program will have a realistic basis. We cannot run the nation with merely idealism. Today, Peru has specific factors in its social and economic reality which cannot be disregarded. An analysis of these factors will precisely make it possible for us to submit shortly, I repeat, a most realistic program to the nation which remains closely linked to our general government plan, but which includes actions we must immediately carry out in order to reach a stage that will allow for improvements by 1980. In this respect, we must ask for the understanding of the Peruvian workers and entrepeneurs. We know all sectors of the nation naturally have their own objectives, their own beliefs and their own needs. The nation, nevertheless, is built on the basis of harmony, and we must find that harmony precisely through a realistic program. All I ask of you is the determination to carry it out.

The basic national objective is to build a Peru that is truly a social democracy where the people may participate in the solution of its problems. We know we can hardly achieve this within the time we have left, but we consider it our patriotic duty to begin working toward these national objectives so that the government which is to take over in 1980 may continue them, not as a commitment to this government but as a commitment to Peru.

Peru, my dear Peruvian brothers, must, should and will be made with the effort of every Peruvian. Undoubtedly, we need foreign aid, and we are getting it, but this is not the solution for Peru. Our solution is the effort that we Peruvians will make on behalf of our country. In this respect--I will give more details on another occasion--I must inform you that Peru's foreign debt in the economic field, although a significant amount, does not necessarily mean, regarding the nation's resources, that it is the main cause of the difficult moments we are going through. I am referring to its magnitude. Our foreign debt of $4.2 billion can be compared to much higher amounts owed by other Latin American countries. The problem with out foreign debt regarding our economic resources basically is how we have to pay it. This means that almost 50 percent must be paid within 2 or 3 years. This is the real problem of our foreign debt. We are trying to reschedule our foreign debt in these years which are hard on the nation's economy.

On another occasion, full details of Peru's foreign debt, basically tied to its development, will be made through the proper channel.

It is important for the political situation Peru is going through that we all realize that we must be honest. Those who are governing, political parties and labor organizations, all need to be honest, because everything that is dishonest and demagogic--we know that demagoguery is to present as true that which is not or vice versa--is poison to any group, whether it be political, government or of the workers. We cannot build the nation with demagoguery. We must build it with honesty and truth. The year 1980 should be the year of consolidation of a new Peru. This means that before then we must make a big effort to carry out a realistic policy in Peru in which national factors are taken into consideration which cannot be disregarded without serious consequences to the nation.

I would like to relate these views, perhaps somewhat disorganized, but nevertheless said with much truth and sincerity, to the fact that we are celebrating these days the bicentennial of the birth of our liberator San Martin. Perhaps meditating on his life and deeds we can find an inspiration for the difficult moment our nations is going through and find in him honesty, unselfishness and love for a cause. Peru is going through a decisive period. We must all assume a historic decision which does not necessarily have anything to do with the hegemony of the military or civilians, but with the sincere decision of building together for the future of our nation.

Within the humanistic philosophy we have outlined, everyone has a right to give opinions and to criticize constructively, but no one has a right to destroy. Our opinions and actions in no way should harm the nation's productivity, because we will not attain the social objectives that this or any other government in the future will try to obtain. Let us realize that we all must maintain peace and tranquility in the country. Each of us, with what we do or not do, will be building a Peru for our children or contributing to their unhappiness.

If you wish, we will have these talks more frequently. Believe me, I will always be sincere, because it is the only way to find solutions together to Peruvian problems. Let us have faith and we will win. I repeat that in these difficult moments, we have not made any compromise with any political group. Our responsibility and duty is to Peru.

Until another day.

TECHNICIANS ARRIVE WITH COMPONENTS FOR REACTOR

PY041404Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Three engineers from the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] have arrived in this capital, and as of Monday, 6 March, they will begin the assembly of the zero-power nuclear reactor. Together with these experts, 95 percent of the electro-mechanical components arrived for the reactor which has been placed at the disposal of Peru by Argentina.

The Argentine engineers will work on the assembly with Peruvian technicians, so that they will get practical training.

Laboratory equipment will arrive in a few days. The remainder of the components will be Peruvian. The uranium needed to start up the reactor will reach this country as soon the transport details have been finished.

PRC, OTHER AMBASSADORS DISCUSS ENERGY COOPERATION

PY041425Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Juan Sanchez Gonzalez has had a meeting with the Swedish, PRC and FRG ambassadors. During the meeting, the possibility was discussed of increased technical-economic cooperation in the fields of mining and energy.

PEREZ ASKS CONGRESS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO TAX LAWS

PA031600Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Text] President Perez has asked the congress to give priority to tax laws and laws to safeguard the public patrimony during the current session.

The president made the suggestion when the legislative chambers resumed their sessions. He indicated that the transformation of the Venezuelan state has reached a level that requires an administrative structure different from the present one.

The chief of state also called for coexistence among political parties during the electoral process. He condemned the outbreaks of violence which occurred in recent weeks and said that they were caused by minuscule groups seeking to disrupt the forthcoming electoral process.

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON DISORDERS, PRISONER AMNESTY

PA031535Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0415 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 2 Mar (EFE)--Venezuelan Interior Minister Octavio Lepage told local newsmen today that the government will not grant amnesty to persons who commit "horrible crimes" in the country.

Lepage noted that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez granted pardons over the past few years to several prisoners sentenced for engaging in subversive activities during the sixties and that it is probable that others may be pardoned before Perez ends his term in March of next year.

Lepage explained that pardoning those who committed horrible crimes will be difficult, openly referring to Cuban anti-Castroite Orlando Bosch and three others accused of sabotaging a Cuban airliner which crashed off Barbados in September 1976. It is also believed that the 17 persons presumably implicated in the kidnaping of U.S. industrialist William Niehous, including former deputies Fortunato Herrera and Salom Mesa Espinoza, will not be included in such a measure.

Lepage said that it is not evident [as received] that the Venezuelan Government had declared an "open war" on subversion and recalled that the president recently stated that the guerrillas operating in western Venezuela will surely be killed in clashes with the armed forces if they persist in their antidemocratic methods.

Referring to the student disturbances which have been occurring over the past 20 days in several Venezuelan cities, Lepage expressed the certainty that they are organized by extreme leftist groups and that the government has proof of this, although such groups deny complicity. He said that arrests have been made of many persons under investigation by the security organizations in order to establish responsibility and to prosecute them according to the law.

As for U.S. industrialist William Niehous, who was kidnaped 27 February 1976, the case has not been closed by the police "because we do not know where he is or if he is still alive or dead," the Venezuelan minister said, adding that he believes he "may be dead," but that the government will continue to investigate the case regardless.

The minister neither confirmed nor denied reports which circulated today that Cuban anti-Castroite Orlando Bosch, currently in prison, may be expelled from the country and thus regain his liberty. He stressed that this case is in the hands of military justice and a final decision on the case rests solely in its hands.

Finally Minister Lepage flatly denied that his country has sent intelligence agents to the Venezuelan Embassy in Havana to guard two exiles there, saying that such a procedure is unnecessary in this case and that he does not know when the exiles will travel to Caracas because Fidel Castro's government has not yet granted the necessary safe-conducts.

INFORMATION MINISTER RESPONDS TO IAPA ON PRESS FREEDOM

PA041210Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 3 Mar (AFP)--"There is absolute freedom of the press" in Venezuela, Information and Tourism Minister Diego Arria said here today when asked about a request by the Inter-American Press Association [IAPA] that the Venezuelan Government define its position on the subject.

"Only a democratic country could be asked that," the minister added. He then noted that IAPA's request may have stemmed from a misinterpretation of the proposals that Venezuela made at the UNESCO meeting on information policies held in Bogota recently.

Arria affirmed that Venezuela neither proposed nor seeks a communications media monopoly. He also announced that his office will respond shortly to IAPA's request.

COPEI DEFINES STAND ON POLITICAL VIOLENCE

PA032234Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 26 Feb 78 pp 1, 12 PA

[Text] Through its national public opinion secretary, the Social Christian Party (COPEI) has said that "the existence of armed Democratic Action (AD) bands is an undeniable fact, and their attacks have always served to detonate outbursts of violence in this country."

In the name of the National Social Christian Committee, Deputy Carlos Rodriquez Ganteaume responded to a request by Interior Minister Dr Octavio Lepage that COPEI define its position regarding the recent disturbances that have occurred in various parts of the country.

At the national COPEI headquarters, Rodriquez Ganteaume told newsmen that neither the government nor AD can deny that COPEI has always opposed the use of violence as a political weapon.

Our condemnation of violence, he stressed, has always been clear and unequivocal, whether it comes from subversive groups or from the government itself, which, with its excesses, serves the strategic purposes of those who do not see a political outlet for their proposals in the free discussion of ideas.

Further on, the parliamentarian said that his party has strongly condemned the attack on COPEI headquarters in Nirgua by armed AD bands. It also strongly requested an exemplary punishment for those who assassinated a young student in front of the AD sectional office in San Felipe, Yaracuy State.

The thing that worries us, Rodriquez Ganteaume added, is that AD has tried to protect those responsible for these incidents.... The public knows of this situation, and that is the reason for its strong rejection of the government's evident weakness in enforcing the law.

He then pointed out that the Interior Ministry cannot make irresponsible accusations against parties such as COPEI which have always maintained a well-defined position in defense of democracy, least of all by trying to justify, as it is doing, the condemnable attitude of and the excesses committed by the authorities in charge of controlling disturbances or by concealing the antidemocratic action of its own party's armed bands.

FOREIGN CAPITAL TO BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSTRUCTION

PA041950Y Madrid EFE in Spani[illegible]25 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 3 Mar (EFE)--Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo announced here on Friday that the Venezuelan Government has decided to open its doors to foreign capital solely in the area of construction.

According to Silva Luongo, the regulation establishing the conditions under which foreign investors can participate in Venezuelan projects for the construction of social interest housing and in tourist, educational and commercial buildings became effective yesterday.

He explained that this policy leaves untouched Venezuela's commitments in connection with decision No 24 of the Andean Pact, which establishes that foreign investors in the Cartagena Agreement member countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) can only remove from these countries 20 percent of the revenue obtained.

The minister added that in order to prevent capital from leaving the country too soon, a 7-year deadline has been set so that within that period those investments may complement the national supply, which at present is insufficient to satisfy the construction sector's many demands.

Silva Luongo explained that no limit has been set on the capital permitted to participate in this field. Still, a number of conditions have been set. One of these demands first-class quality in work. Rigorous controls will be established to guarantee this.

Another of the conditions states that along with the funds, the foreign investors must provide reasonable-priced materials whenever these do not exist in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan minister also announced that his office has received 15 firm offers from foreign consortiums for the construction of low-cost houses. One of these consortiums has offered to build 20,000 housing units anywhere in Venezuela within a period of 4 months.

SEARS GIVEN 6 MONTHS TO BECOME NATIONAL FIRM

PA031655Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1550 GMT 2 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (VENPRES)--The foreign-owned Sears Roebuck of Venezuela has 6 months in which to become a national firm. During this time, 48 percent of its stock must be placed on the local market so that a total of 80 percent of the shares will be held by Venezuelans.

Rafael Soto Alvarez, president of the Foreign Investments Office [Superintendencia de Inversiones Extranjeras--SIEX], said that the talks with Sears Roebuck and Company representatives that began in April of last year have ended. The talks were aimed at carrying out Presidential Decree 2301 of 8 February 1977, which states that all foreign firms trading in the domestic market must become national firms.

The SIEX president indicated that the decision to change Sears was based on the Venezuelan implementation of one of the basic provisions of Decision 24 of the Andean Pact, which regulates the development of some sectors of the economy according to Venezuelan development plans, reserving them for Venezuelan firms.

According to the SIEX decision, Sears Roebuck and Company must reduce its shares in the firm to 19.9 percent; transfer 10 percent to the firm's savings fund, thereby raising it to 30 percent; transfer 2.1 percent to employees of the firm; and place 48.1 percent in the hands of Venezuelan investors. [figures as received]

Soto Alvarez reported that in the talks mechanisms were included to guarantee the real and effective transfer of technology to Venezuelan personnel and the local personnel's direct participation in various levels of the firm's management.

Another new requirement being included by SIEX provides that if in the time given the firm to become national 48 percent of the shares have not been placed on the local market, the remaining balance of shares will be deposited in a fund of a national bank for subsequent sale to local investors. This percentage of deposit can in no way be recovered by the foreign firm.

SIEX will certify Sears Roebuck of Venezuela as a national firm when the firm presents evidence of having complied with all the requisites, which require that 80 percent of the shares be purchased by Venezuelan investors.

ASYLUM GRANTED TO THREE NICARAGUANS

PA041200Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2223 GMT 3 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 3 Mar (EFE)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi announced today that his government has granted political asylum to three persons staying in the Venezuelan Embassy in Nicaragua. In statements to EFE, Consalvi said that by the end of last week there were four refugees in the Managua Embassy: Jose Montemar Ubeda, journalist Santiago Meneses Valecillo, Pedro Pablo Mendoza Pizarro and cattleman Gilodan Montoya. He added that in the last few days three other persons entered the Embassy in Managua.

As in the previous cases, the foreign minister said, we have initiated negotiations with President Anastasio Somoza's government to obtain safe conducts for the seven refugees we now have in Managua so that they can come to Venezuela. Venezuelan political circles believe that the number of refugees in the Venezuelan Embassy in Nicaragua will increase in the next few days as a result of the confrontations between the government and the people in that country.

Consalvi denied that Venezuela had sent intelligence agents to its embassy in Cuba, or that it has any intention of doing so, to question the two refugees who have been there since January. He said that the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry does not have this type of personnel and that his country has no need to send personnel of this type to any of its diplomatic missions abroad.

ALLEGED COLOMBIAN SPIES NOW BELIEVED TO BE KIDNAPERS

PA041510Y Caracas Radio Continente network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Venezuelan authorities now suspect that the arrested Colombians were not spying. As we said before, Mauricio Batle and several other persons were arrested and accused of being spies. At first they were charged with being members of the Colombian Administrative Security Department [DAS]. However, now it is felt that they were planning the kidnaping of some important persons to demand high ransoms. They are still under arrest at the Military Intelligence Directorate [DIM] and being questioned.

BRIEFS

IRON PRODUCTION--Caracas, 24 Feb (LATIN)--The president of the Orinoco State Iron Mining Company announced today that Venezuela's sales of iron dropped to 12,186,221 tons in 1977, a drop of 5.4 million tons from 1976. However, he indicated that despite reduced sales the industry's contribution to the economy increased considerably, to over $507 million, because of a rise in the price of its product. The official added that at the end of 1977, reserves of ore with an iron content of over 50 percent totalled 2,039 billion metric tons--enough for 135 years at an annual production level of 15 million metric tons. It is estimated that there are reserves of at least 8 billion metric tons of ore with an iron content of 39 to 40 percent. [Buenos Aires Latin in Spanish 1556 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA]

GUAYANA DAM CONSTRUCTION--Caracas, 28 Feb (AFP)--A contract to build the final stage of the Raul Leoni Dam in Venezuelan Guayana was signed here today by the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana (CVG) and the Venezuelan-Brazilian BRASVEN consortium. The cost will be $1.225 billion. This is the largest project in the history of Venezuelan construction. The final stage calls for the expansion of exisitng structures, the construction of a second generator room with 10 new generators of 610 megawatts each and a new sluiceway. With the completion of the final stage in 1985, the Raul Leoni Dam will be one of the 10 largest dams in the world, with the potential of generating 50 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2238 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA]

CNTP TO PICKET U.S. EMBASSY, OTHER U.S. AGENCIES

PA031430Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Panama City--Pointing to the U.S. Senate's shallowness, arrogance and ignorance of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, the National Central of Panamanian Workers [CNTP] has announced that the U.S. Embassy and other U.S. agencies in this capital will be picketed.

The week of action and protest will take place from 13 through 19 March in support of the revolutionary government and General Torrijos as an act of vindication for the insults to which both have been subjected.

The CNTP invites all workers in the country to join these peaceful protest demonstrations.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ADMIT TORRIJOS 'NECESSARY'

PA031925Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1556 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales]

[Text] Panama City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Luis E. Veces, secretary general of Panamanian Christian Democracy [Democracia Cristiana Panamena--DCP], told ACAN-EFE today that Omar Torrijos is a "necessary man" and that the Christian Democrats would agree to his remaining in power under certain conditions.

These conditions are the exercise of free play of democratic parties, the effective separation of powers (executive, judicial and legislative branches), and a different role for the National Guard (army) in Panama's future.

"If Torrijos takes those steps, he would become acceptable to a large part of the democratic opposition," the Christian Democrat leader stated.

The Liberal Party, one of the two most powerful parties in the country, together with the Panamenist Party, maintains a similar stand.

"The reality is that Torrijos today is a key man to all sectors and forces, including the North Americans, military, politicians, and opposition businessmen," according to DCP members who consider themselves "the third force of the country after the Panamenists and liberals."

The DCP advocates a national coalition government in which the democratic forces of the country are represented. On the role of the National Guard, it claims that it must not be as prominent as it is now, but neither must it be relegated to a secondary role as before the 1968 military coup.

"The National Guard must not only limit itself to guarding borders and maintaining order, but must participate actively in the country's development because national security is closely related to development. There can be no security with stagnation and a lagging economy," DCP members have stated.

The DCP secretary general, however, voiced the fear that Torrijos may not be able to implement decisions with the same authority he did several years ago. "Today he has to consult not only lieutenant colonels of the National Guard General Staff, but the board of officers and the Zone military chiefs," Veces stated. "I doubt that the military will let Torrijos do as he pleases," he remarked.

Torrijos' loss of power to make decisions without the officers of the National Guard began in January 1976, when Torrijos was in Cuba and the crisis of businessmen and cattlemen broke out, culminating with the exile of eight, according to the DCP analysis. Since then, Torrijos has been compelled to consult with his officers on important decisions, according to Veces.

The last consultation reportedly involved whether to permit the free participation of parties in the electoral campaign which begins 6 March, culminating in August with the election of the 505 representatives who, in turn, will elect a new president in October, according to Luis Veces.

"Torrijos himself has said that he favors such an opening, but I doubt that they will let him," Veces openly stated. On the "inevitability" and "necessity" of Torrijos at this moment, the DCP argues that there is no one other than the general who can guarantee order, popularity and continuity of the system. They add that Torrijos is necessary for the North Americans, for private businessmen (who want peace and domestic stability for their businesses), for the military (because without Torrijos they would not be allowed in power), and for the rest of the sectors. "The choice is Torrijos or chaos," Veces stated.

The big question in Panama at present is whether Torrijos will run in the elections as presidential candidate. Torrijos has been receiving strong pressure in the past few days to launch his candidacy, but he remains silent. When newsmen ask him what he has decided, he replies: "That is the million dollar question."

Nevertheless, everything seems to indicate that Torrijos, whose special powers as chief of government expire in October, will take advantage of his increased popularity to launch himself as presidential candidate.

In Panama, the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives (deputies) elect the president. The representatives will be elected in August and they, in turn, will elect the president in October.

Recently, Panamanian negotiator Diogenes de la Rosa, spokesman for a government sector which favors the "opening," said on a television program that Torrijos is the man of democracy in Panama, which was why he should be president.

Liberal President David Samudio has also hinted in statements that his party members would accept Torrijos as civilian president as long as he commits himself to establishing democratic play and defines the role of the military.

Apparently the only one strongly opposed to a future with Torrijos is the Panamenist Party, whose foremost leader, Arnulfo Arias, exiled in Miami, insists on reiterating the incredible thesis that the treaties will not be ratified, which will bring about Torrijos' overthrow and his triumphant return to Panama.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PRESIDENT FAULTS WAGE DECISION

PA042007Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Text] In reply to statements to the press by the general labor director, Vladimir de la Rosa has said that the General Labor Directorate has denied a request for a moratorium [on wage increases] submitted by the Panama Chamber of Construction [CAPAC], and has thus violated clear labor principles and regulations such as Articles 400 and 409 of the labor code.

De la Rosa said that the construction industry has been the worst hit by the country's economic crisis. He noted that there are a number of procedures established by law which the general labor director did not follow, such as not setting a date for holding hearings to hear the two sides and not considering the most current evidence. He added that the labor director did not undertake the necessary investigations at the Planning Ministry in search of information on the serious economic situation of the construction industry. De la Rosa said that the labor director abstained from notifying the unions of the signatory workers of CAPAC's request and he did not carry out any type of investigation on the facts and considerations expressed [by CAPAC]. De la Rosa said that the official did not adopt any type of legal measures as is usual in these cases.

The CAPAC president said the labor directorate based its rejection of the request on the presumption that some companies can pay wage increases. It thus made a prejudgment and disregarded CAPAC's status and ability to represent its affiliated enterprises in the same way that the unions can do so with their workers.

After presenting a lengthy explanation on the background of the signing of a collective contract and analyzing the consequences of applying the labor directorate's decision, De la Rosa indicated that CAPAC will appeal, using all possible legal resources, so that it will be guaranteed its right as an association, its right to represent its member enterprises, to present all types of requests, to sign collective contracts and to file demands and complaints. He said that CAPAC has complete support of the National Council of Private Enterprises (CONEP) and the rest of the organizations which compose it.

BRIEFS

OIL TRANSSHIPMENT PORT--A bank consortium and Petroterminal de Panama have signed a $36 million loan agreement today for the construction of an oil transshipment port in Chiriqui Province. The total cost of the project is $43 million but the loan is only for $36 million, to be financed as follows: Chase Manhattan Bank, $15 million; the National Financial Corporation [COFINA], $1 million; and $20 million by five foreign banks. COFINA will receive 25 percent of Petroterminal's shares in exchange for the use of water and land rights for the project. The project will be started in December in Charco Azul, Puerto Armuelles, Chiriqui Province. Total government benefits to be derived in royalties, taxes and dividends are estimated at 62.2 percent of Petroterminal's profits. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA]

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT-ELECT CARAZO ANNOUNCES CABINET APPOINTMENTS

PA042004 [Editorial Report PA] San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1633 GMT on 4 March begins a news conference given by Costa Rican President-elect Rodrigo Carazo at which he announces the following members of his cabinet:

Minister of the economy	Fernando Altman Ortiz
Minister of finance	Hernan Saenz Jimenez, an economist
Minister of labor	Estela Quesada Hernandez
State attorney general	Elisabeth Odio Benito, who will prepare the groundwork for a future ministry of justice
Minister of agriculture	Hernan Fonseca
Minister of public works and transport	Rodolfo Mendez Matas
Minister of planning	Wilburg Jimenez Castro
Minister of foreign affairs and worship	Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier
Minister of the interior	Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey, who will also take over part of the Ministry of Government
Minister of health	Carmelo Calvosa Chacon
Minister of education	Eugenia Dengo
Human development minister	Dr Marina Volio (Brenes)
Minister of the presidency	Jose Rafael Cordero Crocerri
Government secretary	Bernardo Carrillo Diaz

Following announcement of the cabinet, Carazo proposes creation of an economic council staffed by Guillermo Gonzalez, who will be executive president of Central Bank of Costa Rica, Oscar Barahona, Ernesto (Romoser) Garcia, Alvaro Cedeno Gomez, Dr Fernando Trejos Escalante, Alexis Orozco Caprillo and Mario Jimenez (Roig). He also announces the appointment of Fernando Ortuno as executive president of Costa Rica Oil Refinery S.A. and Oscar Aguilar (Bunareli) as director of educational television.

The press conference ends at 1721 GMT.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBA TERMED PARTIAL SUCCESS

PA040301Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2301 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Cuba's desire to obtain most-favored-nation treatment and, therefore, free access to the Costa Rican market for some of its products foiled a planned commercial treaty between the two countries.

Reports from San Jose following the return of the commercial mission that negotiated the draft treaty in Havana confirm the rumors of "partial success" in the negotiations.

This agency has learned that instead of the treaty originally sought, only a memorandum concerning bilateral trade was signed.

As could be seen from the treaty it drafted, the Cuban Government hoped to obtain full reciprocity under the most-favored-nation status, but Costa Rica's regional commitments prevented it from signing this clause.

On the one hand, Costa Rica has agreements with the Central American Common Market and, on the other, a bilateral trade agreement with Panama.

Rum became an issue. Under most-favored-nation status, this highly-valued Cuban liquor would have entered the Costa Rican market to compete on equal terms with Panamanian and

Nicaraguan rum. The fame of Cuban rum, derived from its high quality, leads one to believe it would have rapidly conquered the market.

NATIONAL UNIFICATION PARTY CHANGES NAME

PA031943Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] The National Unification Party will participate in the 1982 elections under another name. In order not to pay a multimillion colon political debt, the party leaders have decided to change its name to the National Republican Party, which was registered 2 days ago as a district party. By failing to obtain the required 5 percent in the recent elections, the National Unification Party ran up a debt with the state amounting to almost 16 million colones. The Socialist Party had the same problem and had to resort to a similar maneuver in order not to pay a previous political debt.

Nevertheless, it was learned from political circles that National Unification Party members who signed notes for the party will have to meet this political debt.

GUATEMALA

CONGRESS APPROVES PUBLIC WORKERS' WAGE INCREASE

PA031939Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1920 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Congress today approved the wage increase offered by President Kjell Laugerud Garcia to the 140,000 public employees now on strike in demand of such increases. The decree containing the increase was unanimously approved by the congressmen after the first reading, declaring it a matter of "national urgency."

Workers End Strike

PA032340Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The government workers' strike which started last Thursday ended this afternoon by order of the Government Workers General Assembly, which decided that the workers' demands had been met. However, work in government institutions will begin on Tuesday since the government gave its workers a 3-day holiday--today, Saturday and Monday.

POLITICAL PARTIES CHARGE ELECTORAL FRAUD

PA060036Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2120 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--All the political parties participating in today's general election in Guatemala have charged that "a great fraud" is being carried out. The campaign headquarters of the three presidential candidates have already raised questions concerning the results of the elections before the National Electoral Council. The rightist National Liberation Movement (MLN), which supports Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, and the Democratic Institutional Party (PID)-Revolutionary Party (PR) coalition, which supports Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, had their lawyers lodge charges of voting irregularities.

The Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG), which supports Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez, said that the irregularities are all part of the "great electoral fraud" which is based on the alteration of electoral registers, false identity cards and orders which counter the instructions given to each voting precinct president. The anticommunist MLN charged that many of its supporters have not been able to vote because others had already done so, using the

names of its supporters. The MLN added that "the Guatemala City municipal government issued false identity cards in order to foster the illegal victory of Lucas Garcia."

MLN spokesmen said that, acting as though it were the municipal electoral council, the municipal government ordered precinct presidents not to sign the ballots until the final vote count is made.

The allegations of fraud made by all the political parties include the arrest of persons whom DCG officials found voting for a second and even a third time. "A great many persons voted twice this Sunday," said DCG spokesmen when they announced that the election results will be challenged.

Even the campaign headquarters of the government party candidate, Lucas Garcia, said that records of the irregularities have been complied and the causes are being studied to determine whether to protest the elections. Meanwhile, thousands of persons are gathering outside the National Electoral Council due to the fact that they could not vote because others had voted in their names, because they are not listed in the electoral register or, in extreme cases, because they are listed as dead.

National policemen sent to the Electoral Council offices have been reinforced with soldiers to forestall serious problems. Anger is increasing among those who have been unable to vote. In the interior of the country there are also problems similar to those mentioned above. In addition, voting precinct officials are delaying each voter for 15 to 20 minutes without reason. This is also occurring in Guatemala City. Tempers have been rising since noon, as had been expected in this election, the most hotly contested of the last 12 years.

Peralta Mendez To Seek Annulment

PA061230Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1216 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez, Christian Democratic candidate, will ask President Kjell Laugerud Garcia to declare null and void the entire electoral process which took place yesterday in Guatemala because he feels that the current situation has not permitted the true expression of popular will.

Candidate Refutes Charges

PA061250Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1234 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Gonzalo Yurrita Cuesta, candidate for mayor of Guatemala City, who is charged with being the main suspect of fraud in favor of himself and of presidential candidate Romeo Lucas Garcia, this morning denies such charges. According to Yurrita, this is merely a maneuver to involve him in illegal actions to harm his political career, although he claimed to ignore the origin of the maneuvers against him.

Guatemala City Count Suspended

PA061240Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1206 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[By Antonio Monzon]

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Mar (LATIN)--The vote count in Guatemala City municipality was suspended early this morning after it was learned that the records of several voting tables had been tampered with, surprisingly giving the lead for mayor to Gonzalo Yurrita, the pro-government candidate of the Revolutionary Party. This led Mario Sandoval Alarcon, vice president of the republic and the director general of the National Liberation Movement [MLN], to charge that the fraud also extended to the votes for president.

Supporters of Abundio Maldonado Gularte and of the priest Jose Maria Ruiz Fulan, who were in the lead when the count began, denounced the fraud in Yurrita's favor, demonstrating with documentation that several records had been altered.

Leonel Ponciano Leon, mayor of the capital and president of the municipal electoral board, ordered suspension of the vote count at 0245 while the charge is being investigated.

Shortly before the vote count was suspended in the municipality, MLN Director General Mario Sandoval Alarcon had become involved in another incident with the members of the National Electoral Council. Sandoval Alarcon went to the council and rebuked its members for not releasing data on the electoral process in the interior of the republic. The council members replied that those votes were being counted and that the results of the first reports received from the interior would soon be released. When these results became available, it was reported that MLN candidate Enrique Peralta Azurdia was in the lead with 9,723 votes, followed by Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, candidate of the Democratic Institutional Party-Revolutionary Party [PID-PR] coalition, with 8,436 votes, and the Christian Democratic Party candidate in third place with 6,256 votes.

Meanwhile, in the capital, at the time of the suspension of the vote count with 178 tables counted, PID-PR coalition candidate Romeo Lucas had 18,063 votes, or 43.2 percent; Enrique Peralta Azurdia of the MLN had 13,469 votes, or 32.3 percent; and Ricardo Peralta Mendez of the Christian Democratic Party had 10,298 votes, or 24.6 percent.

For his part, the MLN's vice presidential candidate accused the electoral council of fraud, alleging that his party had information from the interior of the republic which gave his slate a wide lead, while the electoral registry was refusing to release those results.

Both the municipality and the electoral registry had suspended releases on the vote county. Mayoral candidates Jose Maria Ruiz Fulan and Abundio Maldonado have requested that the elections be nullified.

Peralta Azurdia Leading

PA061210Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1205 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Mar (LATIN)--The second official bulletin issued by the National Electoral Council at 0330 (0930 GMT) gave the lead to Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, with 15,648 votes from 17 departments in the interior of the republic. In second place was Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia with 13,215 votes, and Ricardo Peralta Mendez was third with 9,808 votes.

Charges Heighten Tension

PA061305Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1220 GMT 6 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The corroboration or irregularities in yesterday's vote count in Guatemala has given rise at dawn to a climate of very high tension which may spark violence any moment.

United against those they consider to be guilty of the fraud, all candidates for mayor who stand to lose from it, the Christian Democratic Party and the National Liberation Movement today asked the army to intervene in order to clean up the process.

Followers of the candidates who have protested the fraud have filled the city hall to capacity. Army troops have already arrived at the building to search all persons for weapons.

Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez, the Christian Democratic presidential candidate, spearheaded the statements against what has been described as a "shame," to use the mildest term.

According to the multiple charge, the candidates who stand to benefit from the fraud are those of the coalition composed of the Institutional Democratic and Revolutionary parties, namely, Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia and Gonzalo Yurrita Guesta, for the presidency and Guatemala City mayoralty, respectively.

Like all political leaders who do not support the candidacies charged with fraud, Peralta Mendez has said that he will take to the streets with his followers to "fight for the people's sovereign victory."

Once more, the warning has been heard that a civil war may break out in Guatemala, and such expressions as "bloodbath" and other similar terms have taken on today, Monday, a sense of greater urgency than they had during the election campaign.

United by the common sucpicion that they have been the victims of "mockery and scoffing," all political leaders have announced their willingness to spearhead the struggle. However, they also concur in asking the army and President Kjell Laugerud Garcia to intervene to guarantee the honesty of the vote count..

Leonel Ponciano Leon, mayor and president of the municipal electoral board, has already admitted that "there was fraud," but asserted that it had been committed without his knowledge.

For its part, the National Electoral Council has not answered the charge that it has committed the other part of the fraud, this time on a nationwide basis. Based on this panorama, daybreak set in today amid the impression that everything is hanging on a thread.

FIRE GUTS STORES IN CAPITAL; ARSON SPREADS

PA052000Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1742 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 5 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--A fire apparently set by still unidentified persons last night destroyed 29 stores in San Salvador's downtown section, injuring 15 and causing losses estimated at $1.5 million. The fire broke out near the metropolitan cathedral late last night and extended for 5 hours until daybreak today.

This has been one of the largest of the 16 fires that have taken place in the same downtown area since 25 December. Almost all fires have been preceded by anonymous calls announcing them. The calls have been spreading to other cities in the country such as Zacatecoluca, Santa Ana and Santa Tecla, causing alarm.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA SAYS CUBA BEHIND RECENT VIOLENCE

PA052158Y Paris AFP in English 2150 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, March 5 (AFP)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza today accused Cuba of being behind recent violence in Nicaragua. In an interview broadcast over Colombian radio, General Somoza cited as proof of Cuban involvement the fact that a man killed in recent clashes had received training in Cuban territory. "The Cuban Government is behind the violence reigning in the country," he said.

General Somoza held meanwhile that the Sandinist National Liberation Front, while not wiped out, was "very weakened." Referring to the murder of January 10 of government opponent Carlos [as received] Joaquin Chamorro, General Somoza said this "resembles a personal affair" and that his government could not be held responsible for "such a loathsome crime."

MONIMBO INDIANS ISSUE LIST OF MISSING COMRADES

PA031637Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1240 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[By Ricardo Ritter and Agustin Fuentes]

[Excerpts] Managua, 3 Mar (LATIN)--Msgr Miguel Obando, archbishop of Managua, who has received a list of 37 "missing persons," today began coordinating the distribution of aid to the Indian community of Monimbo, as Nicaragua entered a new phase of normalcy.

On the other hand, the opposition evening paper LA PRENSA reported in an article with a Masaya dateline that "the children have begun suffering from gastroenteritis and a large number of people are going hungry" after 2 weeks of armed resistance to the government of Anastasio Somoza.

The archbishop had summoned a large number of Catholic priests to a meeting today at the Masaya Salesian high school to discuss channeling national aid to the Monimbo indians.

In a dramatic letter received yesterday by Monsignor Obando, the Monimbo community said: "The district wishes to make clear before the eyes of the world that reports that we are being influenced by communists or by any other international ideology are false." The letter was in response to charges made by government spokesmen to the effect that "professional agitators from the Sandinist National Liberation Front" had instigated the rebellion.

In their letter to Obando, who visited Monimbo on Tuesday during the confrontations, the residents explain that "through you, a representative of God in the eyes of men, we wish to say that you are the only one who could shed a ray of light and hope in the face of the pain of so many mothers whose offspring have been cut down by bullets fired against defenseless youths, who were shielded only by their valor and their determination to see a free fatherland."

"What is certain is that all Nicaraguans have one desire: the departure of the general who is retaining power by force, because our people want sensible leaders with a devotion to public service," the letter says in reference to President Anastasio Somoza.

After listing 37 "missing" persons in the letter to Monsignor Obando, the residents of Monimbo state: "Today the people of Masaya are weeping with rage and pain. They have decided to put away their rustic weapons in view of their impotence, but this does not mean that we have been subdued, because our courage is stronger than ever."

The letter was released after LA PRENSA had reported that at least 21 persons died in the Monimbo confrontations.

Monsignor Obando told LATIN yesterday that "the residents of Masaya and Monimbo have told me that the National Guard machinegunned them from helicopters and forbid the circulation of Red Cross ambulances."

LA PRENSA, in a column titled "Today's Anecdote," said that tear gas bombs had been rationed among police patrols because of the indiscriminate use that had been made of them in the preceding days.

Reports from other cities in the interior of the country indicated last night that the situation was apparently calm. In Leon the Subtiava Indian community remained under control of the National Guard.

ALFONSO ROBELO MOST LIKELY TO BECOME OPPOSITION LEADER

PA051250Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua--Amid the political tension rocking Nicaragua, numerous opposition leaders have given their support to Alfonso Robelo Callejas, a young businessman who hopes to become president of Nicaragua.

It is an interesting challenge and I accept it, Robello, 30, told the ASSOCIATED PRESS in an interview. I am not a candidate because this is not election time, but I am looking to a [word indistinct] political movement.

Robelo has appeared at a time when the country is being rocked by armed clashes between the people and the National Guard, and the entire political opposition has united to demand Somoza's resignation.

Somoza, on his part, has flatly rejected all resignation demands and has said that he will remain in power until his term concludes in 1981. Somoza, whose family has ruled Nicaragua for the past 42 years, said in an interview last night that he will open the country to all ideologies, including communism.

I am not a politician; I am an organizer, said Robelo, who 4 days ago concluded his term as president of the Nicaraguan Development Institute and who organized and participated in the 17-day strike against Somoza's regime.

According to foreign observers, Robelo is being promoted to fill the vaccuum left by the death of assassinated journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro [words indistinct] the opposition to Somoza's regime.

According to Javier Chamorro, brother of the assassinated journalist and current director of the newspaper LA PRENSA, Robelo is one of the most honest people in Nicaragua.

SOMOZA SUBMITS BILL ON PARTIES TO CONGRESS

PA032239Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1942 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Mar (AFP)--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza submitted to parliament today a bill granting legal participation in the political process to several political parties that are currently not recognized. The current regime recognizes only two parties--Somoza's Nationalist Liberal Party and the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, the only legal opposition group.

Several other parties are semilegal: the Social Christian Party, the Socialist Party, the Independent Liberal Party and the Communist Party. In parliament the liberals have 60 percent of the seats, and the Conservatives the remaining 40 percent.

The two branches of parliament must now revise and study the bill and make a final draft within an estimated period of several months.

POLICE BREAK UP DEMONSTRATION IN JINOTEPE

PA031425Y Managua Radio Corporation in Spanish 1220 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Managua--The National Guard broke up a demonstration at dawn today in Jinotepe, after disturbances resulted in 15 injured and a house being set on fire. The Red Cross reported five persons were admitted to the local hospital.

Meanwhile, in Leon a group of demonstrators last night set fire to a house owned by relatives of Economy Minister Roger Blandon. In Managua all is calm.

National Guard Communique

PA041940Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Communique No 13 issued by National Guard laws and public relations chief Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar on 3 March]

[Text] The Nicaraguan National Guard laws and public relations office informs the people that yesterday, 2 March, in the afternoon in Jinotepe a group of terrorists placed barricades in the streets, destroyed private property and in the evening set fire to the (?Toval) restaurant and the home of Jose Lobo and two cars owned by him. The terrorists prevented firemen from doing their job, throwing all kinds of objects at them in their attack on Lobo's home. Lobo, in turn, fired several shots as a result of which the several persons were wounded: (Albert) Quiroz, (Edgar) Manuel Lopez Hernandez, George L. Serrano Santos and Roberto Mendieta Hernandez. Mr Lobo is in critical condition with head injuries in the Jinotepe regional hospital as a result of the beating he sustained from the assailants.

Police authorities, in their efforts to restore normal traffic, sent a patrol to the scene of the events which was fired upon by the terrorists. This aggression was repulsed with the guards' regulation weapons. They also found .22, .38 and .45 caliber shells and 12-guage shotgun shells on the street.

Authorities were able to restore order at 1540, and the city is calm. The patrol sustained no casualties and continues in its duty of protection and vigilance of private property.

MI PREFERIDA RADIO STATION RESUMES BROADCASTING

PA042222Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1553 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 4 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Mi Preferida radio station has reopened following a 5-day closure, it was disclosed today. The station was shut down by order of the radio and television office after the station reported on the presence of military forces at the Ruben Dario University in Managua early this week. The station was reopened yesterday following a meeting between the station's management and Nicaragua Government Minister Antonio Mora.

SUIT FILED AGAINST DIRECTOR OF EL MOMENTO NEWSCAST

PA031220Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] The radio and television directorate today filed a new suit against the El Momento newscast directed by Joaquin Absalon Pastora. The newscast broadcast a report on Tuesday that the military stationed in Masaya had cut off the hands and murdered 10 children in Monimbo.

The report, besides being slanted, was monstrous, lacked morality and was unimaginable. The radio directorate filed the suit following a formal accusation presented by Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, chief of the National Guard law and public relations office, in the name of the army, which has been offended and slandered in this case.

Col Alberto Luna Solorzano, chief of national radio and television, confirmed that he had called the El Momento newscast director to his office. The new suit is based on Article 62 of the radio and television code, which in one of its paragraphs states textually: "Further violations will also result in the suspension of the responsible official for a period of up to 6 months."

AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN SEES U.S. INTERVENTION POSSIBLE

PA041645Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1601 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Murcia, Spain, 4 Mar (AFP)--The Nicaraguan ambassador to Spain, Armando Luna Silva, said here today that what is happening in Nicaragua"could give rise to the intervention of U.S. Marines, which fills us with terror."

The Nicaraguan ambassador, who came to Murcia to unveil a bust of poet Ruben Dario, added that the serious incidents which have shaken his country in the past few weeks are part of a campaign "to cause the resignation of President Anastasio Somoza Debayle or a military coup so that the Liberal Party will leave the government." According to Luna Silva, in that case "government will pass into the hands of the opposition which will govern with the protection of the army or the backing of foreign nations."

"We are not surprised by the maneuver," he added, "since at the beginning of the century a similar situation occurred, which led to the intervention of U.S. Marines, and to think that the same thing may happen to us again fills us with terror."

HAVANA: EXILES ACCUSE LIBERALS OF ARMING SUPPORTERS

PA041945Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan exiles in San Jose, Costa Rica, have stated that the remarks made by dictator Anastasio Somoza to his cabinet ministers on Thursday confirm certain rumors that the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party is arming its supporters to help suppress the spreading rebellion among the people of this Central American nation. The same sources affirmed that this attitude shows that the degree of the anti-Somoza struggle is such that it exceeds the fighting capabilities of the National Guard. After denouncing U.S. aid to Somoza--by way of military advisers and arms sales--the Nicaraguan exiles stated that the only way to put an end to the country's political crisis is for Somoza to resign.

In Mexico City the Nicaraguan poet and priest Ernesto Cardenal urged the Mexican Government to break diplomatic and trade relations with the Somoza dictatorship. Cardenal, who in the name of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) will make the request to President Jose Lopez Portillo, said that if Mexico takes the step, other Latin American nations will follow suit. Cardenal showed a photograph of a U.S. military plane unloading supplies for Somoza's National Guard. He pointed out that this fact is the best example of President Carter's false human rights campaign.

On its part, the Costa Rican committee of solidarity with the people of Nicaragua noted that the anti-Somoza struggle must have the support of all countries in the world. It added that this solidarity is absolutely necessary for the Nicaraguan people to overthrow a dynasty which has been in power for more than 40 years with the support of the United States.

EFE: TEACHERS WITH 'MILITARY TRAINING' TO LEAVE FOR ANGOLA

PA051530Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1259 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 5 Mar (EFE)--The Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA has reported that the 732 Cuban students trained as teachers who will leave for Angola soon received "military training" for 4 months.

The students were selected from approximately 3,000 volunteers who responded to Fidel Castro's September appeal for the creation of an "Ernesto Che Guevara internationalist pedagogic detachment."

The 732 selected have received professional and technical training and acquired basic knowledge of Portuguese and information about the country in which they will work at two centers located in the town of Guines, south of Havana. The Che Guevara detachment is Cuba's response to a request from the Angolan Government for teachers for the approximately 1 million new students who will begin attending classes in April.

According to information given by Eloides Dias, the director of the detachment, the young Cubans will continue their education in Angola.

HAVANA VIEWS WORSENING HORN OF AFRICA CRISIS

PA050435Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] The crisis in the Horn of Africa unleashed by Somalia's attack on Ethiopia became even more serious over the past week. This action is openly backed by the capitalist powers that make up NATO and by Arab reactionaries who are intent on frustrating the Ethiopian revolutionary process.

The Western press recently reported the increasing supply of war material to the Somali Government in an effort to enable it to continue with its acts of aggression against neighboring Ethiopia's southern and eastern provinces. The Paris newspaper LE MATIN reported on the existence of a Cairo-Mogadiscio air bridge involving Egyptian Hercules C-130 transports. Meanwhile, LE MONDE, another Paris newspaper, reported on the arrival in Somalia of 300 more armored vehicles and 600 antitank missiles.

The Western newspapers also stress the FRG's contributions to Somalia's war supplies. In this regard, they emphasize the granting of a 6-million-mark credit to the Mogadiscio regime.

These sources all link the obvious increase in the transfer of weapons to Somalia with the agreements reached for that purpose in January by the governments of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and the FRG during an urgent meeting held in Washington. The New York DAILY NEWS also reported on a request by several U.S. congressmen and Pentagon generals that U.S. military advisers be sent to Somalia.

For its part, the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'I AL-'AMM reported on the acceptance by several Arab countries of a Saudi proposal concerning the coordination of military support for Somalia.

Meanwhile, this increasing military aid to Somalia in its expansionist war against Ethiopia is in direct contrast with Ethiopia's successful counteroffensive in the southwestern province of Ogaden and with the most recent successes scored by the Addis Ababa revolutionary government's military forces and popular militia in the face of the threats posed by domestic reaction.

In an interview with Czechoslovak television, Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council, affirmed: We defend all our territories because that is the Ethiopian revolution's duty in guaranteeing the social welfare, equality and happiness of our country's children, women and elders. The Ethiopian chief of state recalled that 7 months have elapsed since Somalia, encouraged by the United States and other countries, began this expansionist war, turning the Horn of Africa into a veritable military center. With that in mind, he explained, Somali troops violated Ethiopian borders, murdered workers, students, children and women, and occupied part of our national territory. Mengistu then reiterated that behind Somalia's military operations and provocations lie the NATO countries, supplying it with weapons and war material for the purpose of eliminating Ethiopia's revolutionary process.

As a result of the defensive struggle waged by the Ethiopian Army and the workers, peasants and people in general, the enemy has been pushed back as far as the Ogaden valley, Mengistu Haile Mariam stressed. He added that his people's cause is supported by the progressive forces and democratic organizations and has the solidarity of the socialist community led by the Soviet Union.

After affirming that the Somali Army's withdrawal from the occupied territory is the essential condition for the achievement of peace in that African area, Mengistu stated that Ethiopia's victory will be certain and final and that no other eventuality can be foreseen.

HAVANA REPORTS MENGISTU'S REMARKS ON BATTLE ANNIVERSARY

FL021845Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam has spoken at the event commemorating the 82d anniversary of the battle of Aduwa in which the Ethiopian troops completely defeated the Italian colonialists. The Ethiopian leader said that the Ethiopian working people have profound faith in their victory over their class enemies and foreign invaders, who are supported by international imperialism and are attempting to deprive the workers of the gains of the peoples' revolution and undermine the territorial unity of the state.

Our armed forces who are fighting on different fronts, he added, will soon defeat the domestic reactionary gangs and the aggressive Somali troops which have invaded our land.

PRELA CORRESPONDENT DISCUSSES AID TO ETHIOPIA

PA060051Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Mar 78 PA

[Statement by PRELA correspondent in Panama Lino Fernandez during "Domingo de Periodistas" program on 5 March 1978--presumably recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question--unidentified speaker] Lino, there has been much talk about the Cuban people's aid to the Ethiopian people. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] The young Ethiopian revolution needs the support and aid of all the world's progressive countries, of international public opinion and, of course, of the socialist countries, because it is truly defending the people's interests and bringing the country out of its terrible backwardness. This is why several socialist countries--among them Cuba and the Soviet Union--immediately offered their support and technical aid and advice to the young Ethiopian revolution. This was an altruistic gesture, a gesture of internationalism, which is an essential part of the socialist community's policy.

There have been attempts to create a myth out of this aid. Efforts have been made to present Cuba as a power--in quotes--that is, transferring large military contingents to Ethiopia. They have even said that the defeats inflicted on the invading Somali troops in the Ogaden territory have resulted from the presence of large Cuban forces as well as large contingents from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Ethiopia. Nothing could be further removed from the truth than this. They do not want to recognize the fact that the attackers are being defeated mostly by the courageous actions of the Ethiopian military forces and the people who have joined the militia. From the beginning, they have been repelling the Somali forces' invasion of their territory.

The reactionary countries and imperialism have sought to interpret the disinterested aid that Cuba, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have been giving to the Ethiopian revolution as intervention by foreign forces in the affairs of the Horn of Africa. But we know that this is part of the broad campaign that the world's most reactionary forces, and even psuedoprogressive forces in Western Europe always stage against any truly revolutionary movement that arises in Africa and against any aid from the socialist community and Cuba to any African revolutionary movement.

We will always remember the case of Angola. They sought to present the victims as aggressors, and the disinterested aid was presented as interference in the affairs of others.

In truth, all this is part of a campaign that no longer surprises anyone. Little by little the truth is surfacing: These campaigns are part of a long-range strategy to prevent a true revolution from taking place in Africa and in other parts of the world, a revolution guaranteeing the people's welfare, allowing the so-called Third World countries to emerge from their terrible backwardness, and guaranteeing peace and stability in the world. That is the main purpose of this type of propaganda--to get people to believe that the forces of several socialist countries are participating in that type of action.

FMC SENDS SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO ETHIOPIAN WOMEN

FL031847Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] has issued a declaration expressing its militant and revolutionary solidarity with the people of Ethiopia, especially its women, on the occassion of international women's day. The declaration states that for 4 months Ethiopia has been the victim of continuous aggression and bombing by those trying to break up that country and stifle the revolution.

The document states that the Cuban women support the Ethiopian women's struggle to defend Ethiopia's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socialist revolution.

FIDEL RECEIVES DOMINICAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION

FL031335Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 3 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has received the Dominican Communist Party delegation visiting our country, headed by its secretary general, Narciso Isa Conde. The Dominican delegation is also composed of Carlos Dore, head of that party's international affairs department; Lorencio Rincon, a provincial leader; and Norberto Rojas, an intermediate level leader. Attending the talks for the Cuban side were PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Manuel Pineiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its America Department. During the fraternal meeting, matters dealing with the relations between the two parties and international developments, particularly those taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean, were discussed.

GDR DELEGATION SIGNS AGREEMENT, ENDS VISIT

Weiss Visits Isle of Pines

FL031415Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Gerhard Weiss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, has paid a visit to the urban and industrial development projects for Nueva Gerona in Isle of Pines. The installations of that city's citrus fruit packinghouse, the former Modelo prison, the revolution museum and other places of historic interest were also toured by the chairman of the Cuba-GDR intergovernmental commission, which held its eighth session on economic, scientific and technical cooperation in Havana.

The delegation headed by Gerhard Weiss arrived in Nueva Gerona accompanied by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Agriculture Minister Rafael Francia Mester, both members of the PCC Central Committee.

Received by Castro

FL041630Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Council of State and of the government, has received Gerhard Weiss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and member of the SED Central Committee. The German official is in Cuba to attend the eighth meeting of the mixed commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and the GDR. The meeting between Fidel and Gerhard Weiss was conducted in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

FL041927Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Today in this capital Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers, and Gerhard Weiss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, signed the protocol of the eighth session of the Cuba-GDR joint intergovernmental commission. The plenum of the eighth session of the Cuba-GDR joint intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation began on 27 February. The work sessions ended with the signing of the protocol. Hector Rodriguez Llompart, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Deputy Chairman Ernesto Melendez along with other deputy chairmen of organizations related to this economic field attended the solemn event.

Weiss Delegation Leaves

FL042309Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 4 Mar 78 FL

[Excerpt] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has bade farewell to Gehard Weiss, GDR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, at the airport. Flavio Bravo, Council of Ministers vice president and Council of State member, was also at Jose Marti International Airport.

RAUL CASTRO GREETS USTINOV ON USSR FORCES' JUBILEE

LD021003Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Apparent text of message to USSR Defense Minister Ustinov from Cuban Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro Ruz]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Minister: On behalf of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and on my own behalf, I send you and, through you, all marshals, admirals, generals, officers, sergeants, sailors and soldiers fraternal greetings and the warmest congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The servicemen of the Cuban FAR admire the militant and victorious path traveled by the heroic Soviet people over six decades and their combat traditions and the combat glory of the USSR Armed Forces. Thanks to the immortal feat of the people's army of the new type created by Lenin, the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution was preserved for history and mankind was saved from the fascist yoke. The USSR Armed Forces are now mounting reliable guard over the revolutionary achievements of the peoples of the whole world in the name of peace and socialism.

In celebrating this notable date for all mankind, we would like to wish our Soviet brothers in arms great new successes in strengthening the defense capability of their socialist motherland and to wish you, Dear Comrade Minister, sound health, happiness and further successes in performing your work to boost the Soviet Union's defense capability.

[Signed] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the FAR

FSLN, PALESTINIAN FRONT ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE

PA042140Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Nicaragua's Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DPFLP] have issued here a joint communique in Havana stating that U.S. imperialism, which supports the Israeli Government and Anastasio Somoza's Nicaraguan dictatorship, is their worst enemy. In the document the DPFLP expresses its deepest and most sincere support for the just struggle being waged by the FSLN which, it says, has achieved a qualitative development that has permitted the massive participation of the Nicaraguan working class. For its part, the FSLN demands recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and of the Palestinians' right to create a state in accordance with the principle of self-determination.

The FSLN also condemns the imperialist maneuvers aimed at weakening the Arab peoples' unity and stresses that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's trip to Israel represented the first step taken by Arab reaction in its anti-Palestinian maneuvers. Finally, the FSLN and the DPFLP say that international support should now be voiced more strongly than ever and should salute the just positions adopted by the Soviet Union and Cuba on behalf of peace and the national liberation movements.

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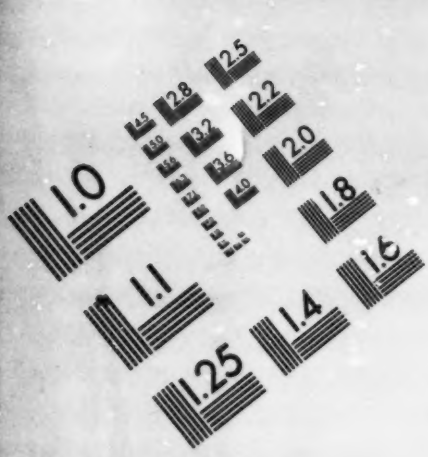


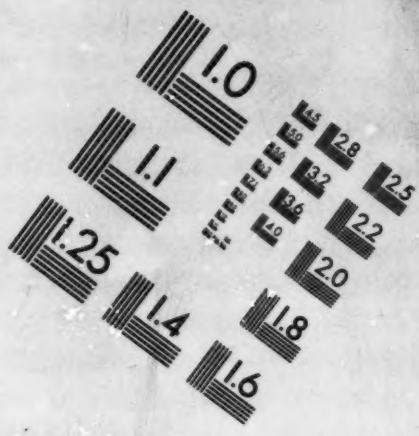
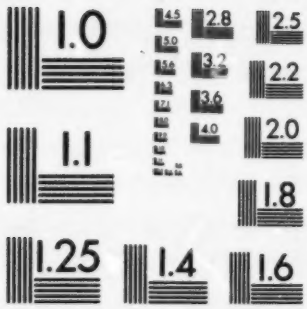
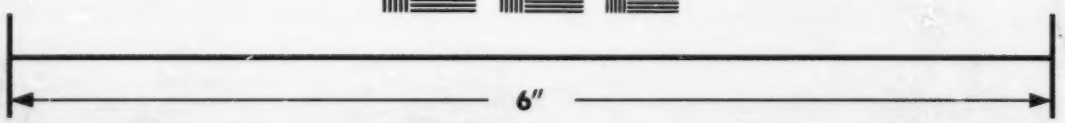


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)





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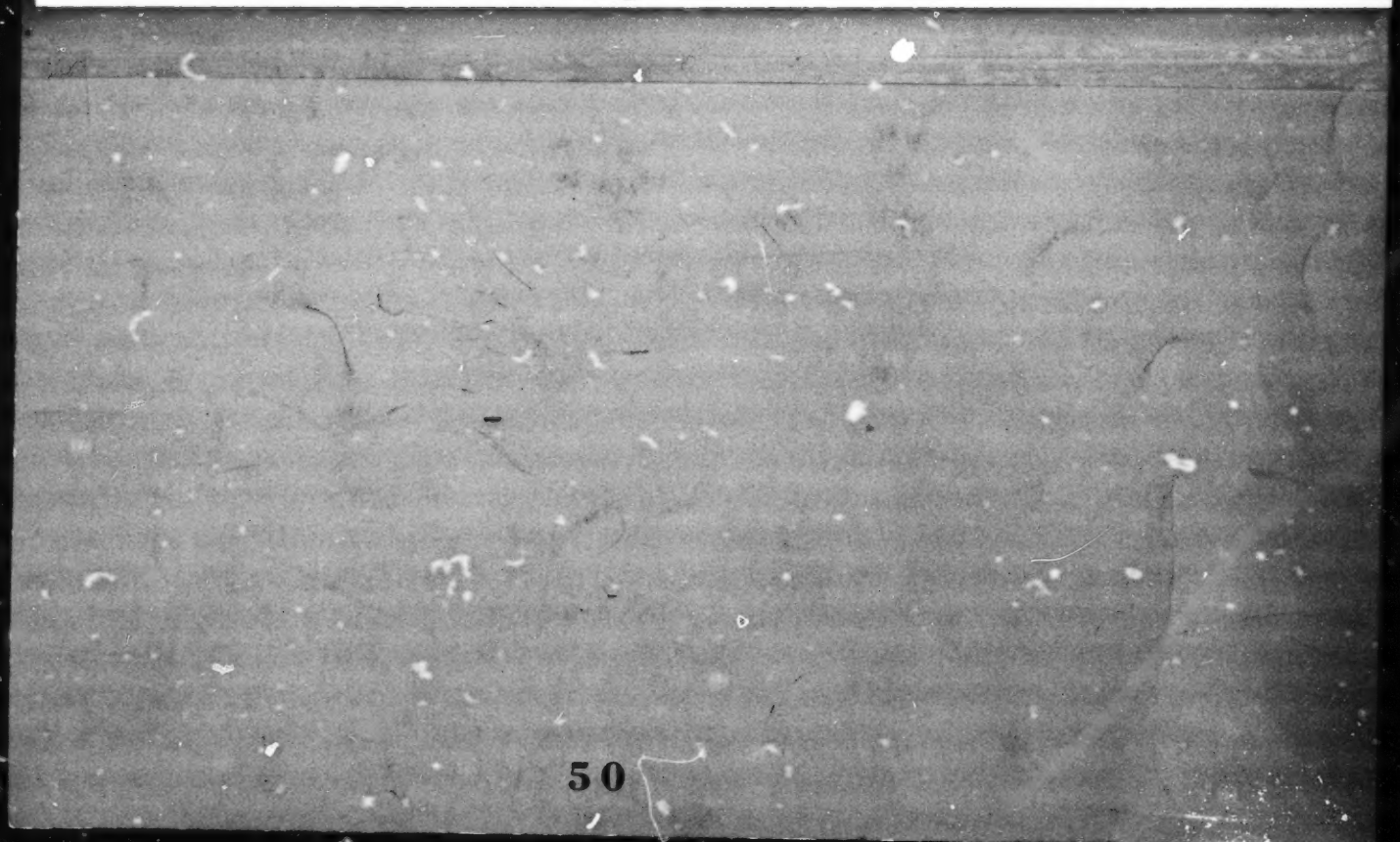
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